

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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takes devilish turn
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Kosovo's eastern sector gets new U.S. commander

Officials say province seeing an atmosphere of change Page 3



Miles of
suspicion

In Iraq, a convoy is also combat
for vigilant troops Page 6

CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

A truck filled with medical supplies causes a recent Combat Logistics Patrol from Tikrit, Iraq, to come to a halt, when a stretcher started to fall out. The soldiers went into a defensive perimeter, guarding its trucks against a possible attack, until the load was secured and the convoy could continue. The dangers of moving supplies from point A to point B in Iraq are so severe, "convoy" isn't a word that does justice to the mission. "Combat Logistics Patrol" has taken over to describe the military vehicles that escort supply trucks.

STARS & STRIPES

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On Thursday

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Hunter S. Thompson memorial: Friends and family of the late Hunter S. Thompson gathered Saturday night at a luxury hotel to remember the writer with a private party.

In keeping with Thompson's wishes, the memorial celebration at the Hotel Jerome in this mountain resort town was closed to reporters and the public.

Outside, a careful passerby might have noticed Johnny Depp, who portrayed Thompson in a film adaptation of "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," and John Cusack slipping into the hotel, along with guests carrying invitations.

Inside, the hotel's ballroom was decorated with a giant American flag and an almost life-size black-and-white photo cutout of Thompson standing in front of it.

Aspen residents honored Thompson's request for privacy.

World

Kyrgyzstan election protests: Hundreds of people across Kyrgyzstan on Sunday protested across irregularities in last month's elections, with supporters of one opposition candidate blocking a key road linking the country with China, police said.

Supporters of another opposition candidate continued to occupy a government building in the country's south for a third day Sunday, refusing to recognize his defeat in the Feb. 27 vote.

The Central Asian nation's parliamentary elections were criticized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe as falling short of international standards. Election officials said opposition candidate Isenbay Kadyrbekov's appeal with the Central Election Commission would be considered on Monday.

Jordan terror arrest: A man charged with e-mailing bomb threats to Jordanian intelligence officers said Sunday he was tortured into making false confessions while in detention.

Murad Khaleel al-Assidat, 18, a Jordanian of Palestinian descent, was arrested in December and has pleaded not guilty to Jordan's charge of threatening violence to disturb the public.

His case was adjourned until March 13.

Madrid bombings: The prime minister has urged media outlets not to broadcast grisly footage and photos of the Madrid train bombings as Spain marks the attacks' first anniversary this week, saying it will make victims suffer unduly.

News coverage "at all times must respect the victims' pain," Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said Saturday in an interview with the private Foundation for Victims of Terrorism.

The government has declared Friday's anniversary a day of national mourning.

British royal wedding: The forthcoming wedding of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles is good for Britain and people should support it, the former Archbishop of Canterbury said Sunday.

A local registry is expected to rule soon on the formal details that have been filed against the marriage plans. The objections were filed by unidentified Britons on



Pope's recovery: Pope John Paul II waves to faithful Sunday as he appears for the traditional Angelus prayer at a window of his apartment on the 10th floor of Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic Hospital, in this picture released by Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano. The pope looked alert as he sat behind the closed window, repeatedly raising his arms to bless the crowd, but he did not speak during the three-minute appearance. Residents in the pope's hometown of Wadowice, Poland, held special prayers and signed a book of greetings that will be delivered to the pope. Orthodox Christians in Bucharest, Romania, also prayed for the pontiff, who visited the nation in 1999, his first trip to a Christian Orthodox country.

Friday, the deadline for such challenges.

James Brown in Indonesia: Legendary soul singer James Brown said Sunday that Michael Jackson was being "set up" in his child molestation trial and that the embattled performer should be touring tsunami-hit Asia rather than defending himself in a U.S. court.

Speaking in Indonesia ahead of a concert Sunday, the 71-year-old Godfather of Soul also claimed to be the root of modern music. "All the music playing the last part of the 20th century was all James Brown," he said. "The 21st century is just James Brown period. Whether it's rap, hip hop, gospel, or country doesn't make no difference. They are all using my stuff and I'm glad because I've been able to bring something to music."

Brown said he came to Indonesia in part to raise awareness about the Dec. 26 tsunami that killed more than 173,000 people in 11 countries around the Indian Ocean.

N. Korea nuke talks: North Korean leaders told China they are ready to resume six-nation nuclear talks, the Chinese foreign minister said Sunday, but he didn't say whether Pyongyang attached any conditions.

China has been trying to arrange new talks on the North's nuclear program. Pyongyang announced Feb. 10 that it had produced nuclear weapons and had no interest in returning to the disarmament talks.

Responding to a message from Chinese President Hu Jintao, the North Korean leadership said it "remained ready and willing to continue to participate in the six-party talks," Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said.

China's defense budget: A general in charge of finance for China's military says Beijing doesn't spend enough on defense even after the announcement of another dou-

ble-digit annual budget increase.

"Compared with other major countries in the world, the military expenditures of our country are still at a fairly low level," the official Xinhua News Agency quoted Maj. Gen. Ding Yiye as saying.

China announced Friday its military budget will rise 12.6 percent this year to \$29.9 billion — a figure that analysts say is probably far less than its true spending. It was the fourth double-digit increase in five years.

Bobby Fischer deportation saga: American chess champion Bobby Fischer could be deported to the United States to face tax evasion charges, a Japanese news report said Sunday.

The report by the national Mainichi newspaper could signal more trouble for Fischer as he battles a separate Japanese deportation order to the United States and tries to win free passage to Iceland. Fischer, 61, has been held by Japanese immigration authorities since being arrested in July while trying to board a plane to the Philippines allegedly using an invalid U.S. passport.

Congo violence: Children as young as 8 and women are among the militia who have attacked several villages in Congo's violent Ituri province, killing dozens and forcing more than 70,000 from their homes, a United Nations spokesman said.

Militias suspected of killing nine U.N. peacekeepers in northeastern Congo have also taken thousands of people hostage to use as sex slaves and to ferry gold and other minerals, said U.N. spokesman Kemal Saiki.

U.N. peacekeepers negotiated the release of more than 1,500 hostages in early February, and assisted another 3,700 who were kidnapped and later released by ethnic Lendu militia, said Maj. Aamer Zahid, spokesman for U.N. troops in Congo, on Saturday.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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Another time of change for Kosovo

Eastern sector gets new U.S. commander weeks before conference on 'final status'

BY BEN MURRAY
Stars and Stripes

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo — Once a bloody battle ground, Kosovo has become a refuge of restraint for its fiercely divided population, the outgoing commander of the U.S. peacekeeping force in Kosovo said Saturday.

Since September, when National Guard reservists of the 38th Infantry Brigade began patrolling villages around Camp Bondsteel, there has been little to report in the way of civil unrest, the departing unit's commander, Brig. Gen. Tod Carmony, said.

But as Carmony prepared to hand off command of Multinational Brigade (East), or MNB(E), to Brig. Gen. William Wade II of the 40th Infantry Division, both commanders agreed the transfer would take place in an atmosphere of change for the disputed province. Change that could mean eventual independence for Kosovo or renewed violence or both.

On Sunday, Wade officially began the U.S. military's first yearlong rotation in the MNB(E), almost exactly a year after the last major flare-up of violence between ethnic Serbs and Albanians, and just months before pivotal international conferences on what is referred to as the "final status" of Kosovo.

The day before the transfer of authority ceremony, both generals sat down with Stars and Stripes to talk about the American mission in the Balkan province, where the U.S. military has held a presence since the 1999 NATO bombing campaign to push back Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic. Since then, Kosovo has lingered



PHOTOS BY BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

Brig. Gen. William H. Wade, left, incoming commander of the U.S. peacekeeping force in Kosovo, the Multinational Brigade (East), addresses troops at a transfer of authority ceremony Sunday at Camp Bondsteel. "We do not approach the tasks before us lightly," Wade said. "The people of the United States and our NATO allies sent us here to accomplish a mission, a mission that we will fully perform to the best of our abilities."

in a political limbo, where the area's 90 percent Albanian population is still legally part of Serbia, but governed by U.N. resolutions from afar.

Whatever recommendation the panel makes, ethnic tension will have a greater potential to increase as a conclusion draws closer, a top U.N. envoy to the area said in

late February.

"One or the other group is not going to be happy with [the panel's decision]," Wade said Saturday.

But Carmony said something has to happen to break a political status quo that has yet to defeat widespread unemployment and a disturbing human trafficking prob-

lem. Just weeks before the change of command ceremony, 13 arrests for human trafficking were made in 10 days, and four women found in forced prostitution — one in a town just outside Bondsteel's gates — were freed, according to U.N. reports.

"The situation just can't stay the way it is now," Carmony said. "The economy is kind of waiting for some kind of status so we can move forward, otherwise it's kind of painful."

As Wade took the helm, the U.S. assessment of the stability of Kosovo was "calm, but fragile" — a phrase used by both generals.

If political change does mean unrest, Wade said, his 1,700 troops are fully prepared to back up the local Kosovo security forces.

Both Wade and Carmony said Saturday the long period of calm that has settled in since last March is cause for optimism, and that the 40th ID extended stay in the province will be a boon for relations between Americans and the local population.

In the long run, Carmony said, a reduced American presence in Kosovo — originally scheduled before the March 2004 violence — is still a possibility, but an international presence will likely remain in the province for the foreseeable future.

"When you get this kind of destruction ... it takes a while for everybody to start focusing on the future [rather than] on the past," he said. "I'm starting to see people be more focused on the future. They want something more for their children and they know they have to get that is to work to move forward."

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U.S. troops in Kosovo feel welcomed by residents

A long history of ethnic intolerance keeps Serbs and Albanians apart, but both sides wave to Americans



Spc. Randolph Labastida, from the 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry, patrols the muddy streets of the Serbian village of Pashan on Saturday, near the U.S. military facility at Camp Monteith, Kosovo. Troops regularly patrol local villages to provide a reminder of the presence international peacekeepers retain in the region.

CAMP MONTEITH, Kosovo or the untrained eye, it's impossible to tell which portions of the muddy back alleys in the villages outside of Camp Monteith are Albanian and which are strictly Serbian.

Crumbling stone walls and haphazard cinderblock buildings are the norm in both, and the ubiquitous geese and stray dogs disregard the ethnic borders.

It is likewise hard to tell which side of the ethnic line people fall on based on their reaction to American troops patrolling the streets on missions to present a show of force and improve community relations.

Regardless of where they are, troops of newly arrived elements of the 40th Infantry Division said last weekend that local residents are usually quick to wave or shake the hand of a passing soldier.

"I would say in all the towns we've been pretty welcome," said Spc. James Dombrowski, from the 578th Engineers' Company A.

The patrols are a large part of the day-to-day American work in Kosovo, where troops cruise the streets of towns near the two U.S. facilities in the region — Camp Monteith and the large-

er Camp Bondsteel — to remind both sides that an international presence remains in the province, departing U.S. Brig. Gen. Tod Carmony said Saturday.

The Kosovo Force has acted on behalf of both ethnic populations in recent years: first when troops blasted back Yugoslav forces advancing on Albanians and sealed off the province in 1999, and more recently when soldiers fought to calm an Albanian rioting aimed at the Serb minority last March.

"They don't like each other, and they're very honest about that," Dombrowski said. "This is not the land of tolerance."

But it is a place where American forces are readily accepted, said Sgt. Kevin Barry from the 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry.

"The kids come up, we give 'em candy," Barry said. "Sometimes the [cave] owners buy us coffee."

The attitude also seems to spill over in areas where Serbs and Albanians intermingle, said Sgt. Spencer Davenport, also of the 1st-160th, in what he said was a refreshing contradiction from his expectation that Kosovo was a dour place typified by angry ethnic standoffs.

"Everybody's just basically friendly to each other," he said.

— Ben Murray

NASA workshop gives teachers a boost

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

Over the years, astronauts and those who study the heavens have always captured the imagination and interest of students enrolled in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe.

But lately the relationship between DODDS and the National Space and Aeronautics Administration has reached new heights.

On Saturday, two NASA personnel sat down with DODDS educators for a daylong professional development course designed to further the system's science curriculum, from the elementary level to high school.

The focus this time was NASA's

Student Observation Network, which allows students to make observations via a computer and compare it with NASA data. In particular, the workshop dealt with the relationship between the sun and the earth, such as tracking solar storms.

"Science is exciting. Science is about discovery," said Elaine Lewis, a NASA educator for the observation network. Ultimately Saturday's workshop, she added, was intended to help DODDS educators "inspire the minds of young students."

Last fall, two NASA scientists visited DODDS-Europe headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany, to discuss something called the

Goldstone Apple Valley Radio Telescope Project.

With respect to that project, the computer work students will do involving radio waves across the solar system and universe actually helps NASA develop and modify planetary models used by scientists.

The two workshops don't necessarily represent a new effort by NASA to reach out solely to DODDS, because, as Lewis said, the space agency as always sought to inspire students as well as teachers. But the workshops do underscore a continuing interest to make science more appealing to kids.

"NASA puts a lot of effort, visibility and effort towards educa-

tion and public outreach," said Lou Mayo, a planetary scientist and program manager at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

Sponsored by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the recent workshop in Heidelberg, Germany, drew 36 DODDS teachers and administrators. Attendees received a presentation about the sun-Earth system and how it works, and were later schooled in the activities and tools the Student Observation Network offers teachers to assist them in the classroom.

Using desk computers, educators were guided through some of the learning sites they can access

and show their students. Some of the sites display real-time data on the sun and its relationship with Earth.

"It's neat that kids get to work with real data," said Susan K. Kerns, president of the ASCD's German affiliate and an educational technologist at Bitburg Elementary School. "They can see the same data that scientists see."

For Kerns, the workshop is yet another tool DODDS teachers can use to expose students to the wonders of science. The paycheck might be decades away, she said, but a DODDS student "may be the one scientist that solves a mystery" regarding issues like radiation or ozone depletion.

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Playing paintball hooks Sigonella corpsman

Enthusiast hopes to set up field on base

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

For someone trained in saving lives, Petty Officer 2nd Class Aaron Rich has spent a lot of time shooting people. The Naval Hospital Sigonella, Sicily, corpsman has even shot people in the back while they weren't looking.

But as an experienced paintball player who's competed on semi-professional teams in both the United States and Europe, that shooting is integral to the sport.

Rich started playing paintball about 10 years ago when he bought a gun and equipment from a roommate's friend. He shelled out \$200 on gear for a game that he'd never played before.

"The first time I played I was hooked," he said. "It's like the worst drug you can take — it's expensive and addictive."

Rich tried to play as often as he could, scraping together as much money as he could for trips to central Florida paintball fields.

As his skills progressed, so did the sport of paintball.

"Early in the '90s there were no concept fields," he said. "It was all in the woods."

A French company, Rich said, designed inflatable obstacles that were set on a playing field. The Sup'Air obstacles, as they are known, are now standard in the many tournaments held throughout the world.

"It's way more structured, especially over the past few years," Rich said about paintball's evolution. "This is all spectator-friendly."

Rich started playing in tournaments while he was stationed in North Carolina in the mid- to late 1990s. Teams carry rankings that allow them to be set in play brackets.

Rich has mostly played at Ama-



teur A level, which is one step down from the sport's professional ranking.

When he transferred to Sicily in 2002 he expected to continue playing paintball regularly.

Unfortunately, he said, paintball is virtually unknown on the is-

land.

"If you go outside the borders of Italy (it's big)," he said, "I've played Russian, English, French, Japanese, Brazilian (teams), but not Italian."

He's played in a few tournaments since arriving in Sicily, in-

Petty Officer 2nd Class Aaron Rich plays paintball during a tournament at the Crystal Palace in London last year. Rich has played at a number of tournaments throughout his three years in Europe and had played in many more over the past decade in the United States. Rich plays paintball during a tournament at the Crystal Palace in London last year. Rich has played at a number of tournaments throughout his three years in Europe and had played in many more over the past decade in the United States. In Sicily, where he's stationed, the sport is virtually unknown, he says.

Photos courtesy of Petty Officer 2nd Class Aaron Rich

cluding one in Lisbon, Portugal, where his team took fourth of 50 teams in the Amateur A level, and also has refereed two tournaments in Germany.

He said he doesn't expect to play much during his remaining six months in Sigonella, but hopes

Stripes Spotlight

Petty Officer 2nd Class Aaron Rich

Rich, the leading petty officer for

the hospital's operations management division, also is an avid paintball player, having played in tournaments at the semiprofessional level.

Age: 30

Duty station: Naval Hospital Sigonella, Sicily

Military service: 11 years

Family: Son, Austin, 3

Home: Winter Haven, Fla.

Stars and Stripes

to at least help get a paintball field set up on base.

The base did have one, he said, but paintball on Sigonella "came to a screeching halt after Sept. 11, (2001).

"We're still waiting for something," he said. He wants to ensure that when the base does get paintball up and running again, it has proper, up-to-date equipment and is run along tournament lines.

He understands that it will cost money to get it started, but believes if it's run correctly — and safely — it could be economically viable for Sigonella.

"At Lejeune we had one on base and that even with two (fields) out in town," he said.

The benefit won't just be monetary, he said, as paintball is a sport that can appeal to anyone.

"I've seen whole families playing — mom, dad, brothers and sisters," Rich said.

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Cars pull to the side of the road as a recent Combat Logistics Patrol passes through downtown Tikrit. Iraqis have been told to yield when a convoy passes. The dangers of moving supplies from point A to point B in Iraq are so severe, "convoy" isn't a word that does justice to the mission. "Combat Logistics Patrol" has taken over to describe the military vehicles manned by soldiers who escort civilians in the truck and are ready to unleash a hail of bullets on anyone who tries to stop them.

PHOTOS BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

Soldiers' eyes wide open on roads in Iraq

Combat Logistics Patrols stay vigilant while moving supplies

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

TIKRIT, Iraq — "You say a little prayer before going out," Spc. Hamdan Jaludi said. "After that you just keep your eyes open."

So begins the Combat Logistics Patrol, which is when heavily armed military vehicles escort a line of trucks that are moving supplies from point A to point B. Civilians drive the trucks, while the military vehicles are manned by soldiers ready to unleash a hail of bullets at anyone who tries to stop them.

It is a tense daily routine — so potentially deadly that "convoy" isn't a word that does justice to the

amped-up soldiers who guard it.

Exhausting? Not really, said the 22-year-old Jaludi.

"It's your life you're talking about," he said.

All the roads in Iraq are strewn with places for insurgents to hide bombs or mount an ambush, which makes for high-sensory paranoia every time the soldiers leave the gate and results in high-fives and sighs of relief every time they return unscathed.

"It's almost addictive, like a drug," said 1st Lt. Brian Broas, a convoy commander with the 50th Main Support Battalion, 42nd Infantry Division. "No matter how short of a trip, you spend a day and a half preparing for it."

"During the actual convoy it's exhilarating. You constantly have to push other thoughts out of your mind. Your perception is heightened. I can see how soldiers can get addicted to it."



Jaludi



Broas

fired from the adjacent neighborhood of shacks. Maybe it was a sniper, maybe just someone harassing the troops, they said.

Troops carefully examined a single, leafy tree in the highway median as they approached, it's an easy spot to plant a bomb.

"They gotta cut that down," Broas barked over the roar of the Humvee's engine.

The light traffic in Tikrit that morning was a troublesome sign. Up in the Humvee's turret, Jaludi waves at oncoming Iraqi motorists to pull off to the shoulder. Most do, some don't. He swings his M249 Squad Automatic Weapon around and aims it at drivers who come too close.

SEE PATROLS ON PAGE 8

At a fast clip, unit takes over

TIKRIT, Iraq — In its first three weeks in Iraq, the 50th Main Support Battalion ran 165 convoys to U.S. bases throughout north-central Iraq.

Its soldiers, part of the 42nd Infantry Division-led Task Force Liberty, delivered 1,100 vehicles and their payloads of water, fuel, ammunition and other necessities. Then they turned around and brought more vehicles and supplies back home to Forward Operating Base Speicher.

"It was a little steep to begin with," said Lt. Col. Roch Switlik, the battalion commander, because the task force had just taken the reins from the 1st Infantry Division. "We'll now average 15 to 20 CLPs a week, 60 to 100 vehicles a day."

CLPs, pronounced "clips," stands for Combat Logistics Patrols, the new name for convoys. It's a name Switlik said better reflects the missions, when the battalion's well-armed Humvees and Hemet repair-recovery vehicles escorts tractor-trailers loaded with supplies.

"Combat teams are out there looking for insurgents," Switlik said. "The insurgents are out there looking for us. Each level of play on the battlefield has its own level of risk."

The 50th MSB took over for the 1st ID's 701st Main Support Battalion.

"They didn't lose anybody," Switlik said of the 701st. "Obviously, some of it was luck. The majority of their success was because their soldiers were well trained and disciplined."

Going to school

Each convoy starts with a trip to the "CLP Academy," a warehouse converted by the 701st MSB into a briefing room. The soldiers assemble on wooden bleachers and are given a rundown of where they're going, how many vehicles are going, and the latest intelligence reports concerning the route.

There is a movie screen where Powerpoint presentations are shown, and on the cement floor is a 20-by-50 foot topographical map showing bases, routes, mountain passes and little red markers indicating the sites of previous attacks by insurgents — roadside explosives, small-arms fire and car bombs.



Spc. Jessica Opatz, right, and other soldiers from the 50th Main Support Battalion listen to 1st Lt. Jeff Nilsen inside the Combat Logistics Patrol Academy as he details an upcoming convoy.

"The soldiers need to know how serious it is every time they go out the gate," said Staff Sgt. Jason Shelley, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 50th MSB's Company C.

"They're going to do it every day. It's a routine. If they don't take it seriously somebody is going to get hurt. Every time they have to go out like it's the first time."

Radio checks are made beforehand, and the soldiers test-fire their weapons into a huge bank of dirt before leaving the gate.

Talking the TOC

The battalion's tactical operations center runs around the clock. Its 10 soldiers chart the whereabouts of the convoys and relays information and orders. They brief the convoy commanders prior to and during missions.

"If something happens during a CLP, I want to know about it," said Master Sgt. Warren Williams, the center's noncommissioned officer-in-charge and a veteran of two tours in Vietnam.

"We're the lifeline of the operation," Williams said, "especially when we've got CLPs out there on the [road]. Communication and teamwork is important."

The crew works 12-hour shifts, some from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and the rest from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. The routine can make for long days but they find ways to stay on the ball.

"One, we have an important job," said Sgt. Robert Augustine. "And two, we have fun with each other, and that keeps us motivated."

— Charlie Coon

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3rd Task Force 2-7 member gets Silver Star

Sergeant saved six fellow troops during a battle in Fallujah

BY VINCE LITTLE

Stars and Stripes

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — On the eve before going home, the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Task Force handed out a third Silver Star.

Sgt. Benny J. Aliecia, 33, of Attleboro, Mass., earned the medal in Fallujah when he saved the lives of six fellow squad members during a November firefight with insurgents — despite suffering shrapnel wounds from two grenades.

"Sgt. Aliecia epitomizes what's great about our Army," said Lt. Col. Jim Rainey, the 2-7 Cavalry commander. "He's a young, disciplined warrior who's willing to give his life in the protection of his comrades."

The 850-member task force, which is returning to Fort Hood, Texas, garnered dozens of decorations during the past year, the majority surfacing from its participation in the Fallujah and Najaf campaigns. Between those two battles, 2-7 collected 17 Bronze Star Medals for valor and 63 Army Commendation Medals.

Sgt. Matthew Zedwick of Corvallis, Ore.,

received a Silver Star two weeks ago. Honored posthumously with a Silver Star, Spc. Jose A. Velez, 23, of Lubbock, Texas, was killed by a sniper as he stood over wounded comrades in Fallujah on Nov. 13.

That same day, Aliecia — then a specialist serving as a rifleman and grenadier in Company A — and others went door to door, rounding up terrorist suspects, when they were ambushed at a two-story house along the primary north-south road in Fallujah.

Dropping back into the courtyard, with gunfire spraying out of the house and from across the street, he was struck in the hip and buttocks by shrapnel from two grenades that had been rolled through the front door.

Moving away from the courtyard, the squad headed for the street. After continuing to fire on the house, Aliecia was the last to emerge.

"That's when my leg gave out on me, and I just dropped," said Aliecia, who huddled into a position alongside three wounded comrades in the middle of the road as multiple rounds flew all around them.

"I just kept firing my weapon, just shooting, waiting to get hit. I'd pretty much figured it out at that time, it was all over. I just kept firing my weapon, but I didn't think I was going to make it through it."

When his own ammunition was exhausted, he grabbed magazines from the wounded and managed to protect the position until another Bradley fighting vehicle arrived on the scene. He helped load the most seriously injured soldiers before finally being taken away himself.

Aliecia spent five days recovering, and his squad suffered four casualties and the loss of Velez. That made Saturday's award bittersweet.

"It feels good," he said, "but like I said, I miss Velez all the time. It's an honor to receive the award, but when I look at it, I see him, too. It makes me think about what happened that day."

"It's been a tough year for us. We've done things that I don't think any other unit could do. We've pushed it a lot and taken some losses. I'm just happy a lot of us are going home."

E-mail Vince Little: little@strips.odd.mil



VINCE LITTLE/Stars and Stripes

Col. John M. Murray, left, the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division commander, presents the Silver Star to Sgt. Benny J. Aliecia, 33, of Attleboro, Mass., on Saturday at Camp Taji, Iraq.

Patrols: Miles and miles full of suspicion

PATROLS, FROM PAGE 6

The Humvee driver veers toward those who are driving toward the vehicle, and the aimed gun and big Humvee bumper cause the motorists to submit, pull over and stop.

"You gotta play chicken with them," Jaludi said.

Some trash sitting by the side of the road causes Jaludi to duck down in his turret — just in case.

The convoy leaves Tikrit and enters a barren land of dirt roads, hills and crevices and the occasional sheep farmer.

Three men stand in a field. The suspicious Americans watch them closely, trying to determine

if they are innocent bystanders or plotting insurgents.

Meanwhile, a piece of cargo comes unfastened from one of the trucks. At the next open stretch the convoy grinds to a halt and the soldiers scramble to set up a perimeter around the vehicles, guns pointing and eyes darting, while others clamp down the cargo.

The engines fire back up and the convoy rolls, and mile after mile each suspicious object and person draws a long hard stare. On the way back from FOB Warrior, a flare in the distance shoots into the sky as the convoy rolls toward it. It might be a signal by in-

surgents that the convoy is approaching. It might not be anything.

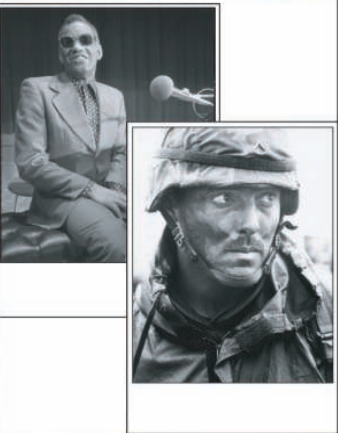
After the convoy, Jaludi, in his distinct New Jersey accent, describes a few of his thoughts while up in the turret.

"I had three of them just staring me down," he said of the three men in the field. "Three farmers, their faces are covered up. And I look at them, and they're just looking at you."

"The little shack by the side of the road? You see it every time. So maybe today I'm not going to look at it. That's the day someone might be in there."

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coon@mail.strips.odd.mil

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On the lookout on the road

To the trained eye, even something not there can be a potential threat. Around Iraq, troops must quickly decide what's dangerous and what's safe. Here are some of the common signs soldiers in the 50th Main Support Battalion look for:

No kids playing: If children are not outside playing in their normal locations, it could mean something is afoot.

Freshly dug holes: Insurgents use holes either on the pavement or alongside it to hide bombs along a convoy route. Most of Iraq's roads, however, have broken sections and often are covered in a spider web of cracks. The shoulders also have many holes and crevices.

Trees, especially leafy ones: Many of the trees in the median and along the highways have been cut down because insurgents use them to hang bombs (at about 8- to 10-foot high, the same height of the exposed gunners riding atop a Bradley, Humvee or light-armored vehicle).

Crowded places: At places such as gas stations or busy intersections or markets, insurgents know that U.S. troops are hesitant to fire into a crowd.

Checkpoints: Insurgents have been targeting places where Iraqi security forces accumulate.

Dog animals on the road: The corpse of a big dog like those used by Iraqi sheep herders is large enough under which to hide a bomb. They've also been used to cause military vehicles to veer around the animal and onto a planted IED. Insurgents have also used live donkeys to carry IEDs.

Motorcyclists: Motorcycles are nimble enough to come off the road into a convoy, from which the driver or passenger can lob a grenade then make a quick getaway.

People: Ones standing suspiciously next to the road could be a suicide bomber. A man standing from 20 to 100 yards off the road could be hiding a rocket-propelled-grenade and launcher.

Pieces of tire treads, rock piles or scrap metal: Iraq's roadsides are strewn with them, and they have been used to conceal roadside bombs.

Vehicles suddenly appearing: It is understood that vehicles are supposed to pull off to the side of the road when a military-escorted convoy is coming through. If a person races up from an adjoining field, or if one veers toward a convoy or approaches rapidly from behind, it could be a car filled with explosives.

Flares, kites and puffs of smoke ahead: Insurgents have used them to signal that a convoy is approaching.

Unusual manmade rock formations or unnatural objects: They have been placed along roadsides by insurgents who use them as markers to time rocket-propelled-grenade launches or bomb detonations.

Narrow mountain passes: These areas are perfect places for ambushes.

— Charlie Coon

IN THE WORLD

U.S., Italy relations being tested once again

BY VICTOR L. SIMPSON
The Associated Press

ROME — Italy and the United States have been consistently close allies since World War II, but the relationship has had to survive such tough tests as a military standoff over Washington's bid to capture a Palestinian guerrilla leader in Sicily and the killing of 20 people when a Marine jet sliced a ski gondola's cables.

Premier Silvio Berlusconi must now manage the latest crisis, set off when American troops in Iraq killed an Italian intelligence officer involved in the release of an

Italian journalist held hostage for a month.

With President Bush calling Berlusconi to assure him the shooting would be investigated, both sides appeared to be moving swiftly to contain the damage.

Defense Minister Antonio Martino was called by his American counterpart, Donald Rumsfeld, and the Italian said he felt "sure that investigations will shed full light on the circumstances that led to the tragic episode of the af-

fair," the Defense Ministry said Sunday.

The slaying of the intelligence agent, as he was driving with journalist Giuliana Sgrena to Baghdad's airport shortly after her release, raised the political stakes for Berlusconi.

Sgrena, who was held for a month, writes for the left-wing newspaper *Il Manifesto*, which opposes the deployment of Italian troops in Iraq.

Berlusconi has forged a close relationship with Bush, sending

3,000 troops after the fall of Saddam Hussein to help in reconstruction.

He acted despite wide opposition to the war in the streets — a rainbow peace flag hangs from a window beside his Rome residence — in part to give Italy a greater voice in international affairs.

Italy's two continental rivals, France and Germany, opposed the war.

When news of the killing reached him Friday night, Berlusconi summoned the American ambassador and demanded that someone be held responsible.

Sgrena said U.S. forces opened fire on her car as it approached an American checkpoint, and that Nicola Calipari, the Italian agent who won her freedom, died in her arms after he tried to shield her from the gunfire. She has disputed U.S. military accounts that the car was speeding toward the checkpoint and that the Americans used hand and arm signals, flashing white lights and fired warning shots to get the car to stop at the roadblock.

Berlusconi's political allies, however, cautioned against using Calipari's killing as an excuse to pull out the troops.

China warns U.S., Japan not to include Taiwan in military alliance

BY JOE McDONALD
The Associated Press

BEIJING — China's foreign minister warned Japan and the United States on Sunday not to include Taiwan within the scope of their military alliance, saying Beijing would not permit interference in what it considers an internal matter.

The Communist Beijing government claims Taiwan, split from

the mainland in 1949, as part of its territory and has threatened to attack if the island declares formal independence.

"Any practice of putting Taiwan directly or indirectly into the scope of Japan-U.S. security cooperation constitutes an encroachment on China's sovereignty and interference into China's internal affairs," Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said at a news conference held during the annual meeting of

China's legislature.

"The Chinese government and the people are firmly against such activities," he said. Li's comments came two weeks after China reacted angrily to a joint U.S.-Japanese declaration that reaffirmed the two governments' security arrangements and said they wanted to see the "peaceful resolution" of Taiwan's status.

China's legislature is preparing to enact an anti-secession law

that officials say is meant to discourage Taiwan from trying to make its de facto independence permanent. Taiwanese leaders say the measure could set the stage for an attack on the island.

Washington is Taiwan's main arms supplier and could be drawn into any conflict over the island. Li repeated Chinese criticisms of the U.S.-Japanese alliance as a Cold War relic and said such cooperation "ought to be strictly re-

stricted to a bilateral nature."

"If it goes beyond a bilateral scope definitely it will allow unreasonableness on the part of Asian countries and also bring about complicating factors to the regional security situation," he said.

Beijing regards Japan as its main rival for status as East Asia's dominant military power and responds angrily to any suggestion that Tokyo might extend the reach of its forces.

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Syria to pull back troops in Lebanon

BY ZEINA KARAM
The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Syrian troops will begin redeploying to ward eastern Lebanon on Monday in a pullback that will take two or three days, Lebanon's defense minister said Sunday.

Abdul-Rahim Murad said the withdrawal from Mount Lebanon and northern Lebanon toward the Bekaa Valley would begin directly after a Damascus meeting of the presidents of the two countries.

Also Sunday, the leader of the Hezbollah militant group called for a massive demonstration in Beirut this week against international interference in Lebanon, to counter the weeks of anti-Syrian protests here.

The redeployment of the 14,000 Syrian troops to the Bekaa is the first phase of a two-step pullback that Syrian President Bashar Assad outlined in a speech to parliament on Saturday. His announcement, however, left it un-

clear whether Syrian forces would eventually leave Lebanon or remain inside the country near the border.

Later Saturday, Syrian Immigration Affairs Minister Butaina Shaaban indicated Syrian troops would withdraw completely from Lebanon.

The details of the withdrawal were to be finalized in a January meeting of the Supreme Syrian Lebanese Council, which comprises the top leadership of both countries.

Meanwhile, Jordan's foreign minister met Israeli leaders on Sunday, the first such visit in more than four years, signifying renewed diplomatic efforts to resolve long-standing regional conflicts involving Israel, the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Hani al-Mulki called for intense peace efforts in meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Vice Premier Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom, just before Shalom left for Washington.



World Championship Tour surfers and locals surfers ride on the world's longest surfboard Saturday to set an unofficial Guinness World Record in Australia's Gold Coast. The attempted record breaking is part of the "TsunamiRimur," a charity set up to raise funds for tsunami victims. The 40-foot board, created by shaper Nev Hyman, was crammed with 47 surfers.

Dude, that's a big surfboard

More than 40 surfers ride wave into the record books

The Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia

— More than 40 surfers cruised into the record books Saturday when they successfully rode a giant surfboard off an Australian beach, breaking the previous world record set by an English team of 14 people in 2003.

More than 5,000 people gathered Saturday to watch riders conquer the 40-foot-long, 10-foot-wide board, newspapers reported. The board, created by board shaper Nev Hyman, arrived by semitrailer.

More than 20 people carried it to the surf.

The riders at the Queensland state tourist city

"It was the best four minutes of my surfing life."

board shaper
Nev Hyman

Gold Coast, where the Quiksilver and Roxy Pro surf competitions were held, included pro surfers Chris Ward of California and Australian champion Danny Wilks.

Newspaper reports of how many riders took part ranged from 44 to 47.

Hyman said the four-minute ride to shore was worth the monthlong effort to build the board.

"It was the best four minutes of my surfing life. It went in strong and straight," Hyman told Queensland's The Sunday Mail newspaper.

The board that set the 2003 record was 36 feet long.

Sinn Fein leader urges man's killers to confess

BY SHAWN POGATCHNIK
The Associated Press

DUBLIN, Ireland — Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams said Sunday that the killers of a Belfast man have dragged his party and the outlawed IRA "into the dirt" and demanded that they "be men" and admit their crime.

Sinn Fein's annual conference, which ends Sunday, has been overshadowed by the Jan. 30 slaying of Robert McCartney, who was fatally beaten and stabbed by IRA members. Nobody has been charged, even though the attack began in a crowded pub.

McCartney's sisters, who live in a hard-line Catholic district of Belfast that is a power base of the IRA, have waged an exceptional public campaign highlighting the intimidation of witnesses and the killers' careful cleanup of forensic evidence.

Detectives say not a single witness was provided a statement identifying the attackers, making it impossible to bring charges.

Sinn Fein, which initially criticized police efforts to identify the killers and denied IRA involvement, has been forced to change tack because of the McCartney campaign. Last week Sinn Fein suspended seven members allegedly involved, following an IRA move to expel three of its members.

On Saturday, four of McCartney's sisters traveled to Dublin to sit in the front row of the Sinn Fein conference to hear Adams appeal for McCartney's killers to hand themselves in. He returned to the theme Sunday.

McCartney's killers "have brought the good name of (Irish) republicanism into the dirt," said Adams, whom the Irish government identifies as an IRA commander.

"Those who did the deed should come forward — should be men — and should come forward and restrain themselves," he said.

However, the McCartney family said it remains unsatisfied that witnesses will come forward.

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Experts: Islamic terror groups actively recruiting in Germany

Militants said to be using Iraq war to mobilize fighters

BY DAVID RISING

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Islamic terrorist groups are becoming increasingly active in Germany, coordinating with militants across Europe to recruit fighters for the insurgency in Iraq and to supply the recruits with fake passports, money and medical supplies, security officials say.

One of the best examples of the cross-continent cooperation involves an Algerian man arrested in Germany and now on trial in Italy for allegedly helping Muslims from Somalia, Egypt, Iraq and Morocco recruit some 200 militants from around Europe to fight in Iraq.

Many in Germany's Islamic communities have shown sympathy for Muslims who took part in the jihad, or holy war, in places like Chechnya or Bosnia, but authorities say since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, a growing number of sympathizers are taking an active role themselves.

"The war in Iraq has somehow mobilized this scene so that people who before just had some sort of contact or sympathies with extremist groups now think they have to do something," Manfred Murck, deputy head of the Hamburg government agency that tracks extremists, told The Associated Press.

"It's a main topic that brings people to action that they otherwise might not have taken. In past years they were talking about jihad, but not doing anything," he added.

Ansar al-Islam, an Iraq-based group with alleged links to al-Qaida and Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab

al-Zarqawi who is leading attacks on U.S. and Iraqi security forces, has been under scrutiny for its efforts to channel money and fighters to Iraq from Germany and other European countries.

Though most German attention immediately followed al-Qaida's Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States was on Hamburg — where three of the four suicide hijackers had lived and studied — recent efforts have broadened across the country and continent.

In December, three suspected members of Ansar al-Islam were arrested in Berlin on charges they were plotting to assassinate interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi during his visit to Berlin that month.

"The Islamist scene in Germany is very well connected, and not only in Germany," a senior German intelligence official told AP, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Muslim activities are more globalist — more pan-European — than Europeans are."

Murck, the Hamburg official, cited the example of Algerian Abderrazak Mahdjoub as an indication of cross-border connections at work within Ansar al-Islam. He was arrested in Hamburg in November 2003 on an Italian warrant and extradited to Milan last March.

In another major German case, 15 suspects — some connected with Ansar al-Islam and al-Tawhid, another terror group linked to al-Zarqawi — were picked up in nationwide raids in mid-January that centered on the twin southern cities of Umm and New-Umm. The suspects included nationals of Germany, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya and Bulgaria.

London's ex-police chief warns of terror threat

The Associated Press

LONDON — The recently retired head of London's police force said in a newspaper article published Sunday that at least 100 terrorists trained by Osama bin Laden are at large in Britain.

Sir John Stevens also said the threat justified tough anti-terror proposals, including placing suspects under house arrest without charge, that the government is struggling to get through Parliament.

"As you read this, there are at least 100 Osama bin Laden-trained terrorists walking Britain's streets," Stevens

wrote in the *News of the World* weekly. "The number is probably nearer 200 — the cunning of al-Qaida means we can't be exact."

"But they would all commit devastating terror attacks against us if they could, even those born and brought up here," added Stevens, who retired as head of the Metropolitan Police last month.

Prime Minister Tony Blair's government wants the new Prevention of Terrorism Bill to include the power to order sweeping controls on terror suspects, including house arrest, electronic tagging and bans on using the Internet and telephone.

Summit takes aim at terrorism

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Governments afflicted by extremist violence must address its causes if they hope to defeat it, not just strike back as the United States has done, say experts who will take part in a world conference on terrorism in Madrid this week.

Those causes include poverty, religious intolerance and failures to integrate a swelling tide of immigrants.

"The consensus ... is a 'soft' power approach based on preven-

tion — not like the United States has in mind, but (rather) with engagement with North African Muslim nations, economic development, assimilating and integrating immigrants into host nations," Charles Powell, a history professor at San Pablo-CEU University in Madrid, said in an interview.

The conference, which runs from Tuesday to Friday, brings together world leaders including U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Afghan President Hamid Karzai and various heads of government or state, as well as about 180 experts from 50 countries.

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IN THE STATES

Governor calls for steroid crackdown

BY ERICA WERNER
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said Saturday he has urged bodybuilding officials to crack down on steroid use and suggested calling a summit of the sport's leaders to discuss the problem.

Schwarzenegger, who admits using steroids on the way to seven Mr. Olympia titles, also said he would put pressure on two bodybuilding magazines where he is executive editor to become involved in the effort.

"We have to step up the testing procedures, and find other ways, and be more aggressive with it," Schwarzenegger said at the Arnold Classic, the annual bodybuilding contest that bears his name.

He said he suggested the summit and discussed the problem earlier Saturday with editors at the magazines *Flex* and *Muscle & Fitness*, as well as officials of the International Federation of Bodybuilding.



Calif. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger speaks Saturday to a group of gymnasts during the Arnold Classic in Columbus, Ohio.

Schwarzenegger also recommended changing the way bodybuilding is judged so that demonstration and display count more than muscle size.

Experts on bodybuilding and steroids say steroid use is common among elite bodybuilders.

Athletes are not tested at events, and experts say the IFBB's random testing is inadequate and ineffective.

Last year, Schwarzenegger vetoed a bill that would have created a list of banned substances for interscholastic sports and re-

quired coaches to take a course on performance-enhancing supplements because he said it was too vague in defining supplements.

Schwarzenegger reiterated Saturday that he would sign a bill that made sense, but also suggested no new laws are needed.

Democrats have criticized the governor for sending mixed signals about steroids. While saying he opposes drug use now, Schwarzenegger also said in a recent television interview that he does not regret using steroids in the 1970s because they were not illegal then.

Other critics have said his continued attendance at the Arnold Classic, where some of the athletes may be on steroids, sends the wrong message.

At least one bodybuilder in this year's competition has admitted using steroids, another spent time in jail for a steroid-related offense. Last year, federal agents investigating steroids served grand jury subpoenas at the Arnold Classic.

Dolphin investigation

KEY WEST, Fla. — Navy and marine wildlife experts are investigating whether the beaching of dozens of dolphins in the Florida Keys followed the use of sonar by a submarine on a training exercise off the coast.

More than 20 rough-toothed dolphins have died since Wednesday's beaching by about 70 of the marine mammals, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary spokeswoman Cheva Heck said Saturday.

A day before the dolphins swam ashore, the Groton, Conn.-based USS Philadelphia had conducted exercises with Navy SEALs off Key West, about 45 miles from Marathon, where the dolphins became stranded.

Some scientists surmise that loud bursts of sonar may cause marine mammals to surface too quickly and suffer the equivalent of what divers know as the bends.

From The Associated Press

Selma, Ala., barbershop owner Floyd Tolbert stands Thursday by the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma. Tolbert has marched across the bridge every March since 1966 during the "Bloody Sunday" remembrance. AP



More youths sought for Selma marches

The Associated Press

SELMA, Ala. — Barbershop owner Floyd Tolbert has marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge each year for nearly four decades in the annual celebration of the bloodied pilgrimage of 1965 that was a milestone in the voting rights movement.

But as some of the original marchers have grown too old to take part and others have died, not enough young people have the passion to take their places, he said. "Older folks try to keep marching, but the younger people aren't getting into it," Tolbert said.

March veterans and organizers want Sunday's 40th anniversary events to feel relevant to young people who were born long after the "Bloody Sunday" attack by club-wielding troopers and sheriff's deputies, who drove the marchers back over the bridge into Selma.

This year's event was to feature appearances by the official tour band of "American Idol" star Ruben Studdard and rapper Lil Scrappy and R&B singer Syleena

Johnson. Organizers at the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute planned a "Hip-Hop/Civil Rights Summit."

Some are concerned the event has become too commercial, diluting the meaning of the protest that inspired passage of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Among those leading Sunday's anniversary march will be Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., who was clubbed to the ground on Bloody Sunday. He will be joined by other members of Congress, celebrities including Harry Belafonte, who marched in 1965, scores of activists and others.



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OPINION

When you've got good PR, who needs shame?

text BY MARGARET CARLSON

When I crossed one threshold of shame back when stars fighting addiction became "Entertainment Tonight" staples. Gone was AA where it's anonymous. In was Betty Ford. Far from being an impediment, detox turned out to be a good career move.

Now we've crossed another threshold with Martha Stewart emerging from doing time at Alderson Federal Prison Camp more marketable than when she went in. The Old Martha, who was on cable (except for those occasional short segments paired with a Cuisinart on the third-rated "CBS Morning News"). The New Martha, who will be under house arrest for five months at her 153-acre Bedford, N.Y., estate, has escaped the ghetto of the high-numbered channels to breathe the clear air of the networks with two new shows, one of which is the only sanctioned spinoff of Donald Trump's show, "The Apprentice." She's so hot, ankle bracelets could become stylish.

I'm all for ex-cons going on to lead fulfilling lives once they've paid their debt, but I do think they ought to start with a small show of remorse. Martha is having her share of success without admitting what she did was wrong or apologizing to the poor schlubs who bought the stock she unloaded just before it tanked. At least drug recidivist Robert Downey Jr. pleaded for forgiveness before his comeback.

I had moments of sympathy for Martha, especially when I felt the prosecutor had gone too far. Men engage in insider trading every day at lunch. Was Martha singled out for trading while female? Then, when the prosecutor couldn't get her for the un-

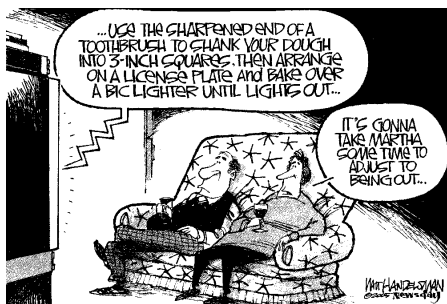
derlying crime, he sent her to jail for making false statements. Some of her sentence had to be for just being so uppity and so devoted to table settings and glue guns. So I was proud of her for taking her lumps like a man when so few men in her situation do. (Enron's Ken Lay, who plundered his company, leaving hundreds of clerks and secretaries penniless, is still hiding behind lawyers in a Houston mansion.)

But still, did she need to be so defiant about it? She went into prison early (deciding not to wait until her appeals were concluded), but only so she could be out in time for planting season. Only rappers get to be that remorseless. Snoop Dogg can be charged with murder, get cleared and then watch his next CD go platinum. But white-collar felons usually beg for forgiveness and do good works.

Snoop, serving 22 months, for instance, Michael Milken devoted himself to his ongoing philanthropic efforts and raising money for cancer research. Wealthy real-estate developer and Sotheby Chairman A. Alfred Taubman, who was rattled out by his assistant, returned to polite society after serving nearly a year for price fixing to give away even more money than before. He's also restoring the riverfront in depressed inner-city Detroit.

Martha shares something with them: They all came out looking better physically than when they went in. Taubman was noticeably svelter after a diet absent foie gras. Martha lost weight and the helmeted coif Milken learned there was life without a toupee.

What she doesn't have in common with old-time white-collar felons is shame. And that's the reason "The Apprentice: Martha Stewart" ultimately won't work for her. It's



one thing if she were just returning to a show where she painted her henhouse aubergine and awoke at dawn to gather dewy grass for a spring centerpiece. It's quite another to hold herself up as the role model for budding entrepreneurs. Really, there's got to be some morality in a morality play.

The program Martha's been training for on the inside should really be called "Crime Spinners." Her five months inside were all about spin — marketing her corporate turnaround and buffing her image. I lapped it all up: "Nice Spice Rack," screamed the New York Post after Martha reportedly listed seasonings out of the prison commissary and stuffed them in her bra. She taught yoga, helped inmates write letters and adapted haute cuisine to the microwave.

"Crime Spinners" would continue the effective work of her PR team. Each week would showcase a diverse and ever-changing group of panelists who would be taught how to succeed as an ex-con without being sorry. She could round up Bernie Ebbers, Kenny Boy Lay, Dennis Kozlowski, Jack

Grubman, Tom DeLay. (I'm assuming a little here, but some of these will appear second season.) She could teach the fine art of calligraphy when writing or endorsing checks of dubious provenance, how to use corporate aircraft for private vacations, securing loans that never have to be repaid and serving chamomile tea in fine china cups while doing it.

Trump could make a guest appearance to show how companies can go bankrupt but you keep the jet, the mansions and the beach property.

She won't be able to call on fellow remorseless recent ex-con Lizzy Grubman, the PR person who mowed down 16 people with her Mercedes outside a club in the Hamptons. The minute she got out of prison, she began rehearsing for her own show on MTV. Crime catapulted her from pining for starlets to being one.

Shame is so last season. Let me this one time emulate the Donald: Martha, you're fired.

Carlson is a contributing editor of Time magazine and a panelist on CNN's "The Capital Gang." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Reaching out to American women, through their stomachs

Chicago Tribune

It's not the Statue of Liberty, the liberation of Paris or Brigitte Bardot, but the book "French Women Don't Get Fat" may be just the thing to thaw Franco-American relations. The author, Mireille Guiliano, was born and raised in France but professes to love America.

Loves it so much, she's willing to impart a little diet and lifestyle advice our way.

There aren't many diet books that extol the virtues of bread and chocolate but 24 pages and include recipes for such delights as croissants (made with 12 tablespoons of sweet butter), baguettes and chocolate rice pudding (don't forget the 3 ounces of dark chocolate).

But this is more of a trans-Atlantic living and eating primer by a woman who but didn't go so much when she was an exchange student in the United States that her father said she resembled a sack of potatoes when she got home.

Married to an American, she lives in New York and is president and CEO of Cicuto Inc.

Is there a different mindset that makes Americans more prone to gain weight than their French counterparts? Guiliano seems to think so. "The wisdom of the French

way of eating and living, and in particular the uncanny power of French women to stay svelte, remains little understood, much less exploited," she wrote.

Part of that ability to stay svelte may lie in the French paradox — the French eat such rich foods yet have such a low rate of coronary disease. Moderate consumption of wine with meals might provide one answer for this medical riddle. But Guiliano

insists that differences between the French and the Americans go far beyond that.

Her message: Drink plenty of water, eat more fruits and vegetables, go for quality not quantity, make dining an occasion. No low-carb miracle fads, just a simple approach more easily understood than the latest diet pyramid.

"French women eat for pleasure," Guiliano wrote. "French women don't diet."

Some American critics have snidely counted that many French women also smoke, enabling them to control their weight at a cost to their health. Whatever the truth to the dietary mystery, Guiliano's book is a runaway hit here.

Divided by so much lately, the French and the Americans can finally agree on something: Good food, in moderate quantity, yields a good life.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Men hit by train

MD ROCKVILLE — An Amtrak train struck and killed one man and seriously injured another just outside Washington at the height of the evening commuter rush.

The men were walking along the tracks behind a shopping center when they were hit. Montgomery County Fire and Rescue spokesman Pete Pinger said.

No one aboard the Chicago-bound Capital Limited train was injured, Amtrak spokeswoman Sarah Swain said.

Authorities identified the dead man as Raymond Whitley, 25, of Rockville. Keon Kelly, 23, also of Rockville, was hospitalized with life-threatening injuries.

'Frozen Dead Guy' fun

CO BOULDER — Over the last three years, the cryogenically frozen body of a Norwegian man has become the centerpiece of a quirky winter festival in a small Colorado mining town.

"Grandpa" Bredo Morstøl, who died in 1989, was frozen by his grandson and stored in a shed in Nederland, a town 35 miles northwest of Denver that began celebrating "Frozen Dead Guy Days" in 2002 to increase tourism.

Now the man's daughter, 75-year-old Aud Morstøl, is hoping Norway's King Harald V and Queen Sonja will help her secure a visa to attend the festival. The royal couple also have been invited by Nederland's Chamber of Commerce to visit and "partake in the fun and parody of the weekend."

Theft plans gummed up

IN KNOXVILLE — Three people pleaded guilty to fishing money out of donation boxes in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park by using a wire clothes hanger with sticky chewing gum on one end.

Brian Keith Seal, 34; Liza Nicole Vanderpool-Chavez, 33, and Jerry L. Carter, 44, could get up to a year in federal prison at sentencing June 10 for misdemeanor theft.

Authorities said the three stole less than \$1,000 from the donation boxes, which were set up by a non-profit group for maintenance and education projects at the park, which straddles the North Carolina-Tennessee line.

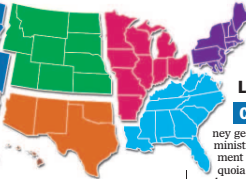
A park visitor reported seeing people acting suspiciously in a car stopped near a donation box last July. A ranger stopped the car and found dozens of sticky \$1 and \$5 bills and a straightened-out wire hanger with goo on the end.

Judge caught with knife

PA HARRISBURG — A state Supreme Court justice said he paid a \$750 federal fine for trying to sneak a pocketknife on board an airplane last month.

"Really, my only comment is ... I did a really dumb thing, which I obviously regret," Justice Thomas G. Saylor Jr. said.

Saylor and his wife were going through a checkpoint for a flight from Harrisburg International Airport when screeners found a Swiss



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Army-type knife attached to his key chain, police said.

The knife was later found in a shoe inside his carry-on luggage when Saylor went back through the screening area a second time, police said.

Saylor said the knife was a gift from a friend that he did not want to give up.

Illegal immigrant rights

AZ PHOENIX — Four months after residents voted to deny some government benefits to illegal immigrants, advocates for limiting immigration are pressing lawmakers to enact even more restrictions on those who sneak into the country.

Opponents question whether the proposed changes — this time to education — would do much to stem the flood of illegal immigration into Arizona, the busiest illegal entry point on the nation's southern border.

But both sides of the debate say the federal government hasn't done enough to fulfill its responsibility to enforce laws already on the books; in response, Arizona lawmakers have proposed several bills this year to address the issue.

The voter initiative approved in November denies some government services to immigrants and

requires proof of citizenship when residents register to vote and apply for public benefits.

Large tree lawsuit

CA SACRAMENTO — California's attorney general sued the Bush administration over its management plan for the Giant Sequoia National Monument, home to two-thirds of the world's largest trees.

The federal plan adopted in December would illegally allow commercial logging in the 327,769-acre central California preserve, the suit alleges.

The plan also violates former President Clinton's April 2000 proclamation creating the reserve south of Sequoia National Park, which bans logging unless it is "clearly needed" for public or environmental protection, the suit says.

The U.S. Forest Service adhered closely to Clinton's proclamation, responded spokesman Matt Mathes. The timber cuts are needed for fire protection, he said, to safeguard sequoia groves that have been threatened before by wildfires.

Expanded moose hunt

VT MONTPELIER — The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife hopes to issue more than 1,000 moose hunting permits for this fall's hunt and expand the season in a part of the Northeast Kingdom.

While additional moose permits will be issued statewide, the goal of the increase is to reduce the number of moose in parts of the Northeast Kingdom from about 2,400 to 1,400, said state moose biologist Cedric Alexander.

The 1,400 number is in line with the department's 1996 10-year moose management plan and reflects the wishes of Northeast Kingdom residents. And the animals are causing environmental damage, Alexander said.

Alexander estimated the size of the state's moose herd at about 4,700 animals, slightly lower than a year ago.

Rare book thefts

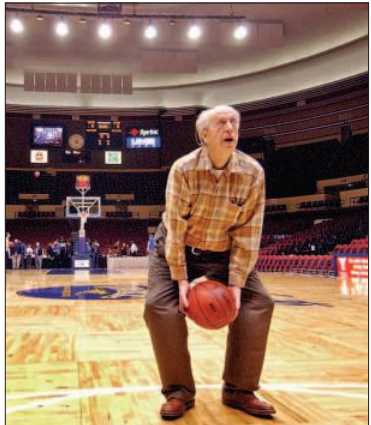
KY LEXINGTON — Four men were indicted on robbery and art theft charges for allegedly taking rare works from a university library, including a first edition of Charles Darwin's 1859 volume on natural selection.

The men allegedly tried to sell the items to Christie's auction house in New York.

The men are accused of taking several items from the Transylvania University library, including Darwin's "The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection," in which he first discussed his theory of evolution.

Also taken were a two-volume natural history published in the 1500s, pencil sketches by John James Audubon done in the 1850s and an illuminated manuscript written in 1425.

One of the men indicted is a Transylvania student; the others are current or former students at the University of Kentucky.



Give it all you got

John Fulton, of Kansas City, Mo., lines up a "granny shot" from just inside the 3-point line on the basketball court at Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Mo.



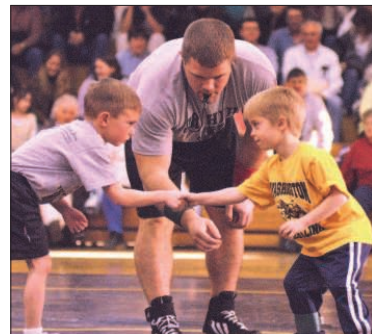
Puttin' on the moves

A fast cut helps Josh Maddock, 17, evade the grasp of Suos and Josh's brother, Eli Maddock, 16, as they played in a pick-up football game in Kansas City, Mo.



Group tubing

People of all ages sled down Sunset Hill in North Conway, N.H., during one of the events of the second annual Mount Washington Valley Winter Carnival.



Little wrestlers

Chase Clymer, left, and Chance Mitchell shake hands prior to their match in a youth wrestling program for grades K-6 in Washington, Ind. Officiating is program director Matt Collins.



Colorful scene

The morning sun backlights a jonquil at St. Scholastica's Benedict Park in Fort Smith, Ark.



Friendly feline

Clyde, a stray cat, seems to ignore a flock of turkeys that cross Sandy DuBois' driveway outside Maple City, Mich. The birds went their way, as did the cat.

Moose shot after attack

AK ANCHORAGE — A moose regularly petted and hand-fed lettuce and potatoes was shot after it stomped on a 6-year-old boy in a neighborhood.

A police officer shot the young, male moose after the boy was safely in a neighbor's home at the Rangeview Mobile Home Park. A densely packed swath of about 75 trailer homes with few trees or woods or even yards.

The boy suffered a split lip and headache, police said.

"As usual, it's people that have caused the problem and the moose that suffered the ultimate consequence," said wildlife biologist Rick Sinnott, with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Jail break-in alleged

AL UNION SPRINGS — Dreaming of ways to break out of jail is pretty normal. But for the second time in less than a month, police have arrested a man for trying to break into the Bullock County Jail.

Police said Ellis Hudson, 40, of Union Springs was arrested and charged with third-degree criminal trespassing after he was caught inside the fence of the jail last month.

Union Springs Police Chief Jake Wheeler said he suspects Hudson was trying to smuggle tobacco to an inmate, since Hudson had pipe tobacco, three packs of cigarettes and rolling papers in his possession.

"There's no smoking in the jail," Wheeler said. "Someone's curious probably get \$2 for a cigarette in there."

Devilish sticker protest

NM SANTA FE — The ACLU is going to court over a case of sticker shock.

The American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico is coming to the defense of Dean Young, who was busted for having cartoon stickers of topless female devils on his car.

Young put the stickers on his car as a political statement protesting the ban on Sunday liquor sales in Clovis. The ACLU contends Young's constitutional rights are being violated and that police and prosecutors are oversteering their bounds.

A Clovis magistrate dismissed the case against Young last month on a technicality.

Police called the stickers pornographic and said they went beyond Young's First Amendment rights. Young has described the stickers as "raunchy" but not pornographic.

Virginia tornadoes

VA RICHMOND — Last year set a record for tornadoes in Virginia, according to weather and emergency officials.

Weather-service records show that 86 tornadoes touched down in 52 localities during 2004 — four to six times the normal number that hit the state in a year.

They were the spawn of a matching record-high number of tropical cyclones pummeling Virginia last hurricane season. Three-quarters

of the state's 2004 tornadoes were associated with the remnants of hurricanes Gaston, Ivan and Jeanne, said National Weather Service meteorologist Bill Sammler in Wakefield.

The 2004 storms injured 14 people and caused more than \$70 million in damage in Virginia, the state Department of Emergency Management said.

Boy's dog electrocuted

MA BOSTON — The utility company NSTar removed a light pole from the spot where a dog being walked by a 13-year-old boy was electrocuted, but the company failed to shut off power to the site, a city investigation found.

"A violation will be written against NSTar," city spokeswoman Lisa Timberlake said, noting that the city's Inspection Services Department issued its finding. "If there's no pole there, it's NSTar's responsibility to shut off the power."

NStar officials said they were investigating why the dog was not shut off when the light pole in the city's Allston section was removed years ago.

The dog, a 1-year-old boxer named Cassius, was given to 13-year-old Kyle Devito and his 10-year-old brother, Alec, as a Christmas present from their parents.

Cable cars cashing in

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Cable car fares, which have already climbed halfway to the stars, are about to complete the trip — and the passengers who are soon to be shaken down for \$5 a ride are squealing louder than the track brake on the Hyde Street hill.

"That's outrageous," said William Laurens, a visitor from Oregon.

"There's a principle involved. Just because we're tourists doesn't mean we can pay anything."

The Municipal Railway, which hopes to raise the basic bus and streetcar fare Sept. 1 by a quarter, to \$1.50, also wants to raise the cable car fare by \$2 — to \$5 a trip. That would make the cost of a cable car ride the most expensive local transit fare in the United States.

Cat hangs on tight

ID INKOM — Torri Hutchinson's cat might just have one less life to live.

Hutchinson was driving along Interstate 15 recently when a motorist kept trying to get her attention and pointing to the roof of her car.

She said she was wary of the man, but wondered if perhaps her ski rack might have come loose.

She pulled over to the side, but kept her doors locked and the motor running.

The man pulled up behind her. Hutchinson rolled down her window to hear the man frantically shouting, "Your cat! Your cat!"

He reached for the roof of her car and handed the shocked Hutchinson her orange tabby.

She had driven about 10 miles with the cat on top of the car, and didn't even notice the feline when she stopped for gas.

Stories and photos from wire services

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFRT's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2005

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Stanley	Movie "Remembrance" (1998)	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	The Bellwether Boys	Armed Football Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30 Sawto-Smash Cat	Eva LaRue, Anne Dickinson. A woman marries into a political family and finds tragedy.	(9-46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	For News Watch		Paula's Home Cooking	Headline News
10:00 Arthur "Buster's Brainteasers"		(3-36) Guiding Light	ESPNews	Bulls and Bears		Designers' Challenge	ESPNews
10:30 Reading Rainbow (E)	(10-48) Movie *** "Speed" (1994) Keanu Reeves. A terrorist is used to explode if he doesn't follow 50 mph.	(17) General Hospital	Advisory Block	Carrots on Business		Fashion Emergency	Pacific Report
11:00 Sawto-Smash Cat		Headline News	60 Minutes	Forbes		The Soup	60 Minutes
11:30 Stanley		(17) General Hospital	Without a Trace "The Line"	Cashin' In		The King of Queens	
12:00 Dora the Explorer		Jeopardy!		Dateline NBC	SportsCenter	That '70s Show "Stealing Girlfriends"	Without a Trace "The Line"
12:30 The Wiggles		Today Joan Allen, Sylvester Stallone, Sugar Ray Leonard, hotel mattress wars.	ER "One More for the Road"	American Morning	PGA Golf Tour Championship at Doral - Final Round. From Doral Golf Resort and Spa in Miami. (Taped)	Charm'd "Look Who's Barking"	ER "One More for the Road"
13:00 Bob the Builder	Movie *** "Courage Under Fire" (1996, Drama) Dennis Miller. Robert Redford. A woman marries into a political family and finds tragedy.	ChalkZone	Pacific Report			Strong Medicine "Children"	Pacific Report
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)	(14) Movie *** "The Sing" (1993, Comedy-Drama) Paul Newman, Robert Redford. Two Depression-era men get to spend a crime lord.	Kim Possible "Job Untar"	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	FOX News		Any Day Now "Who Abandoned Who?"	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
14:00 Blue's Clues at Show (E)		Muchacha "Lucha"	Late Show With David Letterman	FOX News	SportsCenter	Third Watch "And Zeus Wept"	Late Show With David Letterman
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)		Kim Possible "Job Untar"	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson	FOX News	Tennis Davis Cup First Round - Croatia vs. United States. From Carson, Calif. (Taped)	Law & Order "White Lie"	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson
15:00 Funniest Home Videos		Headline News	Dennis Miller	FOX News		The Simpsons	Dennis Miller
15:30 Growing Pains "Springtime"		AFN Evening News	Countdown With Keith Urban	FOX News		Everybody Loves Raymond	Countdown With Keith Urban
16:00 Pokémon "The Crystal Orb"		60 Minutes	Access Hollywood	Dateline NBC		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Access Hollywood
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 1 of 2)		Without a Trace "The Line"	Headline News	FOX News	MLB Preseason Baseball Chicago Cubs at Texas Rangers. From Surprise Stadium in Surprise, Ariz. (Live)	Law & Order "Kid Pro Quo"	Headline News
17:00 Doug (E)		ER "One More for the Road"	Headline News	FOX News		Monster House "Old West House"	Headline News
17:30 The Wild Thornberrys		The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Good Morning America	FOX News		Friends	Good Morning America
18:00 The Fairly OddParents		Late Show-Letterman		Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn	Seinfeld "The Secret Code"	Seinfeld "The Secret Code"
18:30 Rugrats				Blind Date	Parndon the Interruption		
19:00 Lizzie McGuire (E)							
19:30 The Brothers Garcia							
20:00 Smallville "Redux"							
20:30							
21:00 Boy Meets World							
21:30 Boy Meets World							
22:00 The Cosby Show							
22:30 Home Improvement							
23:00 Touched by an Angel "Here I Am"							
00:00 Doug "Doug Directs" (E)							
00:30 Rocket Power							
01:00 The Fairly OddParents							
1:30 Rugrats							
2:00 Lizzie McGuire (E)							
2:30 The Brothers Garcia							
3:00 Smallville "Redux"							
3:30							
4:00 Boy Meets World							
4:30 Boy Meets World							
5:00 Sesame Street (E)							
5:30 The Bob the Builder							
6:00 Barney & Friends (E)							
6:30 Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)							
7:00 Dragon Tales (E)							
7:30 Bob the Builder							
8:00 The Wiggles							
8:30 Dora the Explorer							
9:00 Stanley							
9:30 Arthur (E)							
10:00 Reading Rainbow (E)							
10:30 Sawto-Smash Cat							
11:00 Stanley							
11:30 Stanley							
12:00 Dora the Explorer							
12:30 The Wiggles							
13:00 Bob the Builder							
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)							
14:00 Blue's Clues							
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)							
15:00 Funniest Home Videos							
15:30 Growing Pains "Jedusky"							
16:00 Pokémon "In the Pink"							
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 2 of 2)							
17:00 Doug Doug's dad's old band.							
17:30 The Wild Thornberrys							
18:00 The Fairly OddParents							
18:30 Rugrats "Grandpa's Teeth"							
19:00 The Proud Family (E)							
19:30 The Amanda Show							
20:00 Evinrude "East Meets West"							
20:30							
21:00 Sister, Sister "The Audition"							
21:30 Sister, Sister							
22:00 The Cosby Show "Audition"							
22:30 Home Improvement							
23:00 Touched by an Angel "Bar Mitzvah"							
23:30							

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2005

00:00 Doug "Doug Directs" (E)	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Late Show-Letterman	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
00:30 Rocket Power	(10) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		Paula's Home Cooking	Beer in the Big Blue House
01:00 The Fairly OddParents	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
1:30 Rugrats	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
2:00 Lizzie McGuire (E)	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
2:30 The Brothers Garcia	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
3:00 Smallville "Redux"	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
3:30	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
4:00 Boy Meets World	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
4:30 Boy Meets World	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
5:00 Sesame Street (E)	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
5:30 The Bob the Builder	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
6:00 Barney & Friends (E)	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
6:30 Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
7:00 Dragon Tales (E)	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
7:30 Bob the Builder	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
8:00 The Wiggles	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
8:30 Dora the Explorer	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
9:00 Stanley	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
9:30 Arthur (E)	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
10:00 Reading Rainbow (E)	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
10:30 Sawto-Smash Cat	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
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14:00 Blue's Clues	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
15:00 Funniest Home Videos	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
15:30 Growing Pains "Jedusky"	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
16:00 Pokémon "In the Pink"	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 2 of 2)	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
17:00 Doug Doug's dad's old band.	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
17:30 The Wild Thornberrys	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
18:00 The Fairly OddParents	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
18:30 Rugrats "Grandpa's Teeth"	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
19:00 The Proud Family (E)	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
19:30 The Amanda Show	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
20:00 Evinrude "East Meets West"	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
20:30	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
21:00 Sister, Sister "The Audition"	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
21:30 Sister, Sister	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
22:00 The Cosby Show "Audition"	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
22:30 Home Improvement	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
23:00 Touched by an Angel "Bar Mitzvah"	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House
23:30	(11-00) Movie *** "Freaky Friday" (2000) Dennis Quaid	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Violence"	Beer in the Big Blue House

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STARS & STRIPES
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FACES

Janet Jackson seeks restraining order

Janet Jackson is seeking a restraining order against a man she says has been stalking her for nine years and tried once to bring a box cutter and knife to a New York studio where she was rehearsing for a TV appearance.

The U.S. pop singer said in a motion filed Tuesday in Superior Court that she has become increasingly frightened of Robert Gardner, 46, of New York, since he was stopped by security guards as he tried to enter the rehearsal for NBC network's "Saturday Night Live" in April.

She is also seeking to restrict Gardner from contacting her family, as well as current and former employees. A hearing on her request for a preliminary injunction was set for March 17.

Jackson said in her affidavit that Gardner had been contacting her since 1996 and has faxed her several letters.

"These faxes reference a fabricated personal history between myself and Mr. Gardner, request that I meet with him and include his detailed travel plans," she said.



Jackson

Chesney cancels tour dates due to injury

Kenny Chesney has canceled the opening weekend of his "Somewhere in the Sun" tour after tearing ligaments in his right ankle.

The country singer said Thursday he fell on a staircase and will reschedule March 9-13 concerts — in Green Bay, Wis., Fargo, N.D., and St. Paul, Minn. — for later in the month. "I know the fans in Green Bay, Fargo and St. Paul are gonna be disappointed," Chesney said in a statement posted on his Web site.

"But they're not half as disappointed as I am about not being there."

Chesney said his ankle "looks like a softball." Dr. Burton Elrod said in the statement that Chesney will have to undergo extensive rehabilitation.

"He's going to play soon — with his ankle taped or with a brace under his boot, but he's like an athlete who can perform with some pain."



Chesney

Living like Martha Stewart for a day

Now HERE'S a good excuse for working at home.

Deborah Norville was scheduled to anchor Monday's program "Inside Edition" from her home on Long Island, N.Y., to try to give viewers a taste of what Martha Stewart's home confinement is like.

Norville will be fitted with the same type of ankle brace that is being used to monitor Stewart's location now that she has been released from prison.

Over a 24-hour period, Norville will keep a record of everything she does and report on what the experience is like, the show said.

"Inside Edition," a syndicated newsmagazine, airs weeknights.

Backstreet is back, again

Backstreet's back. Again.

Backstreet Boys, the boy band who demanded "I Want It That Way," have announced a set of tour dates starting March 21 in New York.

They won't play Madison Square Garden this time around — or any of their previous gigantic arena hotspots. The Boys' 13-city tour is a club-only affair, stopping at such intimate venues as the State Theatre in Detroit and the 9:30 Club in Washington.

According to their label, Jive Records, they will perform all their hits plus a few songs from their upcoming CD.

The Backstreet Boys, who debuted in 1997, are putting the finishing touches on a forthcoming as-yet-untilled album, their first original outing since 2000's "Black and Blue."

Stories and photos from wire services



Backstreet Boys

Former Bush frontman tries hard at acting

Gavin Rossdale enjoys playing dark character in 'Constantine'

BY BARRY KOLTUNOW
The Orange County (Calif.) Register

Director Francis Lawrence was on the phone, and Gavin Rossdale was convinced that it was bad news.

The former lead singer of the British rock group Bush figured that the director was calling to inform Rossdale that his small but important role as a nasty demon in the supernatural thriller "Constantine" had been cut. This already had happened to him on another movie, and Rossdale expected the worst.

As it turned out, he need not have worried.

Lawrence wasn't even calling for Rossdale. The director asked to speak to the singer's wife, pop star Gwen Stefani, whom Lawrence had just directed in a music video for her hit single "What You Waiting For?"

"It was a little embarrassing," the 37-year-old Rossdale said of the phone call. "I immediately said, 'You didn't cut me out of the movie, did you?'"

"Francis laughed and told me that he actually had added a couple of scenes. Then he asked to talk to Gwen."

The handsome Londoner said he had good reason to be paranoid. His first film experience, "Little Black Book," was a disaster.

They showed it to a couple of test audiences and the ending depressed them. That was my only scene in the movie and it ended up on the editing room floor."

Rossdale, who left Bush after six albums and will release a solo effort in July with his new band Institute, has another film scheduled for a May release. In "The Game of Our Lives," he plays a soccer player on the 1950s era English national team that lost to the Americans.

In his Los Angeles hotel suite, Rossdale discussed his first movie junket and his budding film career, including his role in "Constantine," which stars Keanu Reeves as a human who battles Satan and an army of demons to earn his way into heaven.

Q: What's a stranger experience — stage-diving into a crowd of 15,000 fans or these press interviews?

A: Well, I'm more at home diving from the stage into a crowd of kids, but what I really enjoy about this press junket is being surrounded by people who want to ask me questions about the movie. It's a relief to finally be able to discuss the film with people who have seen it. Until now, I've been walking around at home raving about the movie but nobody knows what I'm talking about.

Q: So, you're actually enjoying these days of answering endless questions?

A: I really am.

Q: Has there been a highlight?

A: I really liked sitting in a room discussing the movie with eight priests.

Q: Were they journalists?

A: I suppose they write for church publications.

Q: And what was their reaction to the movie?

A: They were very receptive. They seemed intrigued as to how much of the devil I see in myself.

Q: How serious are you about this acting career?

A: Really serious. That's why I've waited so patiently to find the right film to work on.

Q: What was it about the role of Balthazar that appealed to you?

A: I just loved the words. They were so delicious.

Q: You have a new album coming out soon. Where does acting fit in with the music career?

A: A great role model for me has always been Tom Waits. He has had a great career of making wonderful records and then popping up in a film somewhere. The hardest thing to do in a show business career is to surprise people, and he always surprises people.

Q: But Tom Waits always did these small, quirky roles in films. Isn't your goal to be the guy who stars in the movie?

A: If you're asking me if I'd like for them to hold the camera on me a while longer, I suppose the answer is yes. But sharing the screen with people like Keanu Reeves is a great learning experience for me right now, and I don't know what the future holds.

Q: So, at the unemployment office, you still write "musician" on the line that says "Occupation?"

A: Musician/struggling actor.

Q: Emotionally, what is a bigger high — acting or music?

A: Emotionally, there is something about writing music so music will always be my first love. And there is great satisfaction in making something work on screen. I hope I will be able to combine the two."

Gavin Rossdale

musician, actor

Q: How do you deal with that?

A: I try to be the first person in the pool at the start of the day, and the last person out of the pool at the end of the day. I want to learn everything I can.

Q: And how is that working for you?

A: The only indication that it might be working came from the director one day on the set. Keanu and I are supposed to hate each other in this movie because I'm his nemesis, and that chemistry is important for the scenes to work. After one particular scene, Francis came over to me and said: "I think Keanu really hates you." I'm pretty sure that was a compliment.



KRT

Horoscope

Saturn, the taskmaster, opposes Mars, the warrior — the theme is right versus might. When events are meant to be, they can happen in a number of different ways. Using force to get what you want, therefore, is optional. Perhaps it's better to conserve your energy. Moral of the story: When it's truly yours, no one can stop you from having it.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(March 7) Your special achievements are rewarded. An independent spirit rules, and the next 10 weeks show you being particularly resistant to doing anything inauthentic to you. Singles have multiple romantic options through the spring. Summer brings friends together for travel and rollicking good times. Lucky love signs are Taurus and Gemini.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Strangely, some lessons in love can only be learned by developing your self outside of a relationship. Consider that you may have to create distance between you and a loved one in order to be more closely connected.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You let down your guard and find there was little reason for you to have it up to begin with. It's nice when humans reinforce that humanity is mostly good. Someone you need to have in your life reaches for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

There is so much truly inspiring information out there that you don't even have to make an effort to find it. You bump into it when you're not even sure where you're going. You are being guided by signs.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

The thing that separates you from the pack is your habits. Do something that other people don't like to do. You probably won't like it, either, but your commitment to excellence riles out over the temporary discomfort.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Self-appreciation day. Don't

have to tell anybody, but the private love affair you've got going with you is getting really steamy. In fact, you're totally irresistible. Buy yourself something you've been wanting.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Career aims take over your thought process. There's a vision inside you that is growing in color. Fill it out with color, character and detail. If you see it, feel it and believe it, doing it is actually the easy part.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
23-Oct. 23. Caution: Don't spend your time and energy defending your knowledge. You're better off following your insatiable drive to learn more, even if this seems costly right now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
A slight lethargy sets in — perhaps stemming from your basically rebellious nature. The tasks ahead of you are not hard, and they are not easy. But they only get accomplished with the right attitude.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
The financial luck of someone in your circle may be a source of envy. Take this as an indication that you need to get moving on your special project. The most acceptable way to get money is still to earn it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
The open-minded, possibility thinker in you surfaces. Perhaps your belief about how to run a relationship was mistaken. When you are willing to be wrong, you lessen the likelihood that you will be in the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Your lineage affects what happens to you now. It's interesting to note what was given to you by your parents and what is self-created. When it comes to relating your deep affection, show it rather than telling it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

People are grouped together according to the many things they have in common. Think of what you have in common with your group and whether that site well with you. What was lost is now found... in the strangest place.

Creators Syndicate

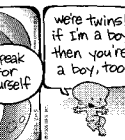
Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



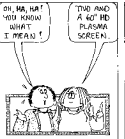
Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



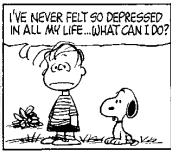
Red Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



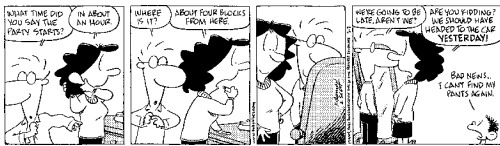
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



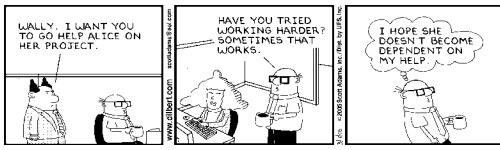
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



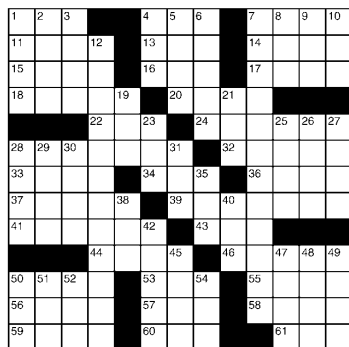
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



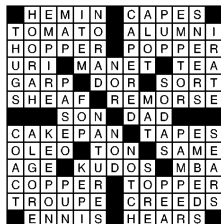
Across

- 1 React to an onion
- 4 Existed
- 7 Succor
- 11 Cad
- 13 McKinley's first lady
- 14 Eastern potentate
- 15 Oppositionist
- 16 Guy's companion
- 17 Jam ingredient?
- 18 Evaluate
- 20 Former talk-show bigwig
- 22 Garden tool
- 24 Willful harm
- 28 Sanctifying ceremony
- 32 SeaWorld attraction
- 33 Actor La Salle
- 34 Boxer
- 36 "What time —?"
- 37 Cancel
- 39 Starbucks' home
- 41 Tile art
- 43 Cambridge school
- 44 Approach
- 46 Thick
- 50 "Simpsons" creator Groening
- 53 Fish eggs
- 55 Cracker name
- 56 Birthright barterer
- 57 Pledge
- 58 "Lion King" villain
- 59 On the right track
- 60 — out a living
- 61 Memorable period

Down

- 1 Tobacco plug
- 2 Actor
- 3 Auberjonois
- 3 Bigfoot's cousin
- 4 Peruke
- 5 Leading man?
- 6 "The Crucible" setting
- 7 VIPs
- 8 Flightless bird
- 9 Illuminated
- 10 Expert
- 12 Photon
- 19 — polloi
- 21 — Tafari
- 23 Kreskin's claim
- 25 Possess, biblically
- 26 Old-time actor
- 27 Trumpeter's muffer
- 28 Construction piece
- 29 Florence's river
- 30 Kegel's targets
- 31 Greek consonants
- 35 Prized possession
- 38 Phony story
- 40 See 7-Across
- 42 Tend a turkey
- 45 Castle
- 47 Pleasant
- 48 Luminary
- 49 Pound of poetry
- 50 Kitten's comment
- 51 Simile center
- 5 Pitch
- 54 Ram's mate

Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-7

CRYPTOQUIP

K T H F K V M Y U M V M K A J Q
 X U K K V M Y V M Y X V Q E
 J G F K A C G V H K P V Y E Q V Q

IA JUGGAC U ETPITY?
 Saturday's Cryptquip: IF EVERYBODY WERE TO GAIN A BUNCH OF WEIGHT, WOULD THAT BRING US ALL CLOSER TOGETHER?

Today's Cryptquip Clue: G equals L

Dog duties are woman's own fault

Dear Abby: I need advice with a problem I have regarding our basset hound, "Sherlock." I bought Sherlock for my husband, "Ken," a year and a half ago. Ken loves the dog, and so does my 18-year-old daughter, "Gretta," who lives with us.

When I heard Sherlock, the understanding was that he would be cared for by my husband and daughter. This is not what happened. I do 90 percent of the feeding and cleaning up after him. We also have a cocker spaniel, "Lulu," we have had since Gretta was 3. Lulu has been my responsibility for the most part. Ken and Gretta play with the dogs, and I "get" to do almost everything else.

Abby, I am not a dog lover; I am a dog "liker." I feel used and resentful. Am I being unreasonable?

—Used and Resentful in Southern California

Dear Used and Resentful: Stop

feeling used and resentful and look in the mirror. Why did you buy a second dog after seeing that your husband and daughter didn't care for the one you already had? You put yourself in this pickle.

Please reconsider shrugging off the responsibility for Sherlock. There are alternatives to getting rid of him. A neighborhood teen could be hired to walk him. A pet service could provide vehicle transportation to the vet or the groomer.

Focus on the bright side. Since you and your husband have full-time jobs, and your daughter is busy with her own schedule, it's just as well that you have two dogs because they have each other for companionship.

Dear Abby: Thirty years ago my mother-in-law, "Grace," suddenly changed. She began accusing her husband of cheating on her and trying to poison

her. She made his life miserable until he passed away. After the funeral, we moved Grace into a house next door to ours.

Things were OK for a while, then she started up again. According to Grace, everyone has been trying to kill her.

A few months ago, Grace had surgery. I stayed with her until she was back on her feet. Now she says I am trying to poison her, and have people come in and steal her stuff.

My husband, her only child, is very upset and has forbidden me to go over there anymore.

What we can do?

Tearful in Tennessee

Dear **Tearful:** Your mother-in-law needs a psychiatric evaluation. Her son should make sure her doctor understands what's been going on before she goes for the exam. The symptoms you describe indicate she may be mentally ill.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate



Dear Abby

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

THYAS

LEBIE

GRONTS

EURUFT

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www.jumble.com

A: A _____ OF _____

Scaturday's Jumbles: SCARY BRINY PAUPER THRASH

Answer: When the robbery was caught on the steps, the cops said it was — A STAIR "CASE"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Girl needs help after admitting rape

Dear Annie: Recently, my 13-year-old daughter, "Ellie," told me she was raped two years ago by a boy who also was 13 at the time. I had no idea, since she never let on that anything had happened, never showed changes in her personality or became withdrawn, nor did she display any signs that she was troubled.

I know that this must have been a horrible experience for Ellie, and as a teenager, it is imperative that she have a healthy support system. She said the reason she didn't tell me earlier was because she didn't want me to think she was a "whore." I reassured her and told her I would never think that, and that this was not her fault.

But her words broke my heart. Ellie doesn't want anyone else to know about the rape, and told me if she feels the need to discuss it, she will come to me. She is an emotionally well-adjusted child, but I think she should receive counseling. I also am concerned

because Ellie says she is never going to have sex again. I understand that for now, but will this carry into her adult life and affect her? She was a virgin before this happened.

I want to help my daughter. Do you believe she really is OK? Is there any legal recourse? The crime is two years old, and the boy is still a minor.

Thanks for your help.

Love My Daughter More Than Anything

Dear **Mom:** The fact that Ellie came to you with this information, even after two years, means it still troubles her deeply. Your instincts are solid. Ellie should get professional help. We recommend contacting RAINN, the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (rainn.org), at 1-800-656-HOPE (1-800-656-4673), for counseling and information about legal recourse. You can check it out first, Mom, and then encourage Ellie to do the same.

Dear Annie: What is the proper etiquette about inviting your boss to baby and wedding showers? My boss, who is not a particularly friendly person and has no personal relationships with any of her staff, always gets peeved when one of us has such an event and doesn't invite her. She says it is "proper etiquette" to invite your boss to these kinds of parties and that we girls have "no manners."

Am I rude for not including my boss in my personal events?

—Anxious Employee

Dear **Anxious:** Your boss is mistaken. You are not obligated to invite her to any non-work-related event outside the office. However, if you feel your job may be in jeopardy, you might want to make allowances for her. It sounds as if the woman desperately wants to be included in these social affairs.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate



Annie's Mailbox

Family Circus



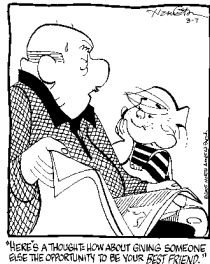
"Tomorrow's my birthday, so these pajamas might fit me in the morning."

GRAFFITI

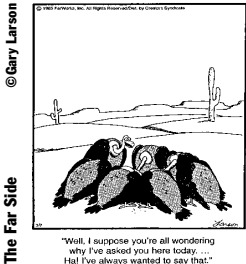
Archaeologists dig up all the old dirt

MEAT 1/34

Domis the Menace



The Far Side



Non Sequitur



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Hahn, unmore rally LRM to unit-level basketball title

BY RUSTY BRYAN

Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — Landstuhl Regional Medical Center picked up a dose of revenge along with the 2005 Army-Europe Unit-Level basketball championship it earned with a 66-63 victory Sunday over Heidelberg's Headquarters, V Corps.

"We wanted the big one," said tourney MVP James Dummore, who scored 29 points in Sunday's title game. "They beat us in the ASO [Area Support Group] tournament. Today it was our turn."

Sunday's victory capped an unbeaten run for the medics through the three-day, double-elimination event.

LRMC trailed by five points at halftime Sunday and by three with 3:35 left in the game. During the final minutes, however, Landstuhl's Parker Hahn took over.

Hahn began by banging home a three-pointer from the right baseline to even the score at 39. But V Corps gained the lead back on baskets by Troy Adams and Pablo Reid, while Hahn and Dummore cut the four-point lead in half by each hitting one of two free throws. With 32.3 seconds remaining, V Corps was about to force a winner-take-all game. It had a two-point lead and possession of the ball.

Hahn, however, stole a cross-court pass in the backcourt, dribbled the floor and was fouled on the layup he made to tie the score. His free throw gave him 15 points on the day and his team a one-point lead, 64-63. A pair of Dummore free throws provided the final margin.

"There was no way I wanted to play another game," Hahn said of the late rally he engineered. "I'm too old for that."

"Too old?"
"I feel like I'm 45," the 25-year-old said with a laugh.



STEVEN MUDOK/Special to Stars and Stripes

James Dummore, right, of Landstuhl Regional Medical Center grasps a rebound in front of Pablo Reid of V Corps in the championship game of the unit-level tournament in Würzburg, Germany.

V Corps, which earned its second shot at LRM with a 64-58 triumph over Wiesbaden's D Company, 123 Main Support Battalion, in Sunday's losers-bracket final, got 23 points from Adams and 19 from Reid against LRM.

But V Corps couldn't find a way to shut down Dummore, who scored 29 during the final.

"This is the best team I've ever played on," Hahn said. "Everyone knows his role and plays it. We just jelled."

Browns trade for veteran QB Dilfer

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Browns didn't wait long to find an experienced quarterback, acquiring Trent Dilfer from Seattle on Saturday for a fourth-round draft pick.

The Browns were left with two inexperienced quarterbacks after Kelly Holcomb signed a four-year deal with Buffalo on Friday. They released starter Jeff Garcia earlier this offseason.

Enter Dilfer, who became expendable in Seattle after starter Matt Hasselbeck signed a six-year, \$49 million contract last month.

Dilfer, who turns 33 on March 13, appeared in five games last season, leading the Seahawks to victories in his only two starts.

The trade, contingent on league approval and Dilfer passing a

**NFL
briefs**

physical, reunites the 6-foot-4, 225-pound quarterback with Browns General Manager Phil Savage.

Savage was Baltimore's player personnel director when Dilfer took over for starter Tony Banks midway through the 2000 season and led the Ravens to a Super Bowl championship.

The move still leaves Cleveland with plenty of flexibility as it searches for a long-term solution at quarterback.

Dilfer only has one year left on his contract, so his addition would not prevent the Browns from making other moves.

Atlanta — The Atlanta Falcons re-signed Pro Bowl return specialist Allen Rossum on Saturday and added kicker Todd Peterson.

Rossum, who set an NFL playoff record last season with 153 yards on three punt returns against St. Louis, agreed to a four-year contract. The 5-foot-8, 178-pound seven-year veteran had 21 tackles, two interceptions and a sack while playing defensive back.

Peterson agreed to a one-year deal. He kicked for San Francisco last season.

Falcons re-sign returner Rossum

SCOREBOARD

SCOREBOARD, FROM PAGE 28

Saturday's women's scores

EAST

Brown St. Cornell 63
Cornell 63, Yale 51
Dartmouth 76, Princeton 63
Harvard 63, Yale 51
Harvard 63, Penn 71

MIDWEST

Northwestern 78, Stony Brook 57
Stony Brook 57, Georgetown 54
Alabama A&M 64, South 58

SOUTH

Birmingham-Southern 58, N.C.-Asheville 56
N.C. Asheville 56, Jacksonville 64
Charlotte-Southern 63, Coastal Carolina 61
Coastal Carolina 61, Jacksonville 64

West Coast Conference

High Point 77, Whitworth 50
Whitworth 50, Delta State 54
Ind.-Purd. 76, Savannah 54
Savannah 54, N.C. Central 54

Northern Conference

MVU 71, N.C. Pine Bluff 67
Emory 68, N.C. Central 48
North Georgia 77, Brenson Park 64
Brenson Park 64, North Georgia 77

Southern Conference

Southern Poly 87, Faulkner 74
Faulkner 74, Gardner-Webb 57
Troy 77, Georgia 54

Midwest

Bradford 72, Wichita 52
Wichita 52, W. Va. Wyo. 68
Creighton 72, Evansville 65
Creighton 65, Illinois 53

Drury 75, Incarnate Word 48

Emory 68, Cent. Missouri 48
Indiana 68, Illinois 46
Indiana 46, N.C. Central 48

West Coast Conference

Washington 77, Missouri Western 57
Alcorn 57, Mississippi 74, OT
Mississippi 74, Alcorn 57

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Prairie View 46, N.C. Colorado 42
Louisiana Tech 70

Midwest

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San Diego St. 67, Montana 67
Cal St.-Fullerton 65, N.C. Charlotte 51

SOUTH

North Carolina 67, North Carolina 67
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Air Force 40, Air Force 40

Midwest

Idaho St. 72, Montana 59
Montana 59, Air Force 40
Montana 40, Montana 59

SOUTH

New Mexico 65, Wyoming 48
New Mexico 48, N.C. Central 51
San Jose St. 65, Nevada 49

Midwest

Utah 68, UNLV 55
Utah 55, Utah 68

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Florida 57, Texas-Pan American 46
Texas-Pan American 46, Florida 57

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Georgia 57, Texas-Pan American 46
Texas-Pan American 46, Georgia 57

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Texas-Pan American 46, Georgia 57

Sacred Heart 76, Mount St. Mary's 56
St. Mary's 56, Sacred Heart 76

TENNIS

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N.Y. Tech 64, New Haven 62

TENNIS

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St. Michael's 207, E. Kentucky 84

TENNIS

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UC LA 71, Arizona 57

TENNIS

Clatsop 65, Lehigh 60
Lehigh 60, Clatsop 65

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Chorley 12, Niagara



Italy's Giancarlo Fisichella raises his arms as he celebrates his victory in the Australian Grand Prix at Melbourne's Albert Park circuit Sunday. Rubens Barrichello finished second and Fernando Alonso third.

Fisichella wins F1 opener

Crash takes M. Schumacher out of race

BY JOHN PYE

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Italy's Giancarlo Fisichella won Formula One's season-opening Australian Grand Prix on Sunday.

Fisichella finished 57 laps on the 3.295-mile Albert Park circuit in 1 hour, 24 minutes, 17.336 seconds in his Renault.

Ferrari's Rubens Barrichello was second, 5.55 seconds back, and Fisichella's Renault teammate, Fernando Alonso, finished third.

Michael Schumacher, who won 13 races last year en route to his seventh world championship, retired with 15 laps remaining after a collision with Nick Heidfeld. The Ferrari driver started on the back row of the grid.

The 32-year-old Fisichella's only previous F1 victory in 141 races came in the controversial 2003 Brazilian GP, when he wasn't awarded the victory for five days until it was discovered he was ahead when the race was stopped.

With new rules restricting drivers to one engine for two races and one tire setup per race, Fisichella's smooth driving made the difference.

Schumacher moved as high as seventh after starting 19th with a new engine. His Australian title defense ended when he and Nick Heidfeld touched wheels and then collided at in the third turn on the 43rd lap.

Australian Grand Prix

Sunday

At Albert Park Circuit

Melbourne, Australia

Lap length: 3.28 miles

1. Giancarlo Fisichella, Italy, Renault, 57 laps, 1 hour, 24 minutes, 17.336 seconds, 113.699 mph.
2. Rubens Barrichello, Brazil, Ferrari, 57, 1:24:24.344.
3. Fernando Alonso, Spain, Renault, 57, 1:24:22.889.
4. David Coulthard, Britain, Red Bull, 57, 1:24:23.467.
5. Mark Webber, Australia, Williams, 57, 1:24:24.344.
6. Juan Pablo Montoya, Colombia, McLaren, 57, 1:24:22.399.
7. Christian Klien, Austria, Red Bull, 57, 1:24:25.333.
8. Kimi Raikkonen, Finland, McLaren, 57, 1:24:23.467.
9. Felipe Massa, Brazil, Sauber, 57, 1:25:20.444.
10. Jenson Button, Britain, BAR-Honda, 56.
11. Jenson Button, Britain, BAR-Honda, 56.
12. Ralf Schumacher, Germany, Toyota, 56.
13. Jacques Villeneuve, Canada, Sauber, 56.
14. Takuma Sato, Japan, BAR-Honda, 55.
15. Narain Karthikeyan, India, Jordan, 55.
16. Tiago Monteiro, Portugal, Jordan, 55.
17. Patrick Friesacher, Austria, Minardi, 53.

Not classified

1. Michael Schumacher, Germany, Ferrari.
2. Nick Heidfeld, Germany, Williams.
3. Christian Albers, Netherlands, Minardi.

Mexican Goeters secures Busch pole

The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Some NASCAR teams worried about security as they made their first trip south of the border. They had reason for concern: Somebody stole the pole.

Mexico's Jorge Goeters thrilled hometown fans Saturday by topping qualifying for Sunday's Telcel-Motorola 200, edging Nettel Cup veteran Bobby Labonte.

"It was really cool to see that guy get the pole, to see all the fans going crazy with the air horns blowing," said defending series champ Martin Truex Jr., who was third overall. "I don't think they'd have done that for me."

It also was good news for NASCAR, adding to local interest in a race that it hopes will help build an enduring relationship with fans in Mexico and with Hispanic fans in the United States.

"As far as Busch qualifying, I don't think we've ever had this many people at the track," Truex said, though officials did not have a count of the crowd Saturday.

Goeters called it "the happiest day of my life" after his No. 66 Ford bundled Gordon to second on the 2.518-mile road course.

"I can't tell you what this event means for me and for my country. I've always dreamed of running in NASCAR," Goeters said.

"I didn't even know it was a good lap until my team told me. 'You did it! You're the leader!'"

It got even happier later. Goeters started on the pole in the afternoon's Clash race and finished second to brother Patrick.

The 34-year-old Goeters has won Mexican titles in trucks (2002), Mustang (1997), sport prototypes and tractor trucks (both in 1996).

Maier wins super-G, 50th World Cup race of career

The Associated Press

KVITFJELL, Norway — Herma Maier won a silver medal on Lillehammer's Olympic course Sunday for his 50th World Cup victory, tying Alberto Tomba for second place on the career list.

Austria's Benjamin Raich finished fourth, just ahead of Bode Miller, and drew closer to the American in the race for the overall title. Miller, trying to become the first American since Phil Mahre in 1983 to win the men's overall, leads Raich by 52 points (1,348 points to 1,296) with only four races left.

Maier, who also won Saturday's downhill on the same slope, was timed in 1 minute, 32.98 seconds. He beat Didier Defago of Switzerland by 0.83 seconds while Daron Rahivels of the United States was third, 0.88 back.

Castillo, Lacy successfully defend titles

LAS VEGAS — Jose Luis Castillo to wore down Julio Diaz with relentless pressure Saturday night before finally stopping him in the 10th round to retain the WBC lightweight title.

Castillo fought true to his usual form, patiently stalking Diaz throughout the fight before knocking him down twice in the 10th round. Diaz was on one knee after the second knockdown when referee Richard Steele counted to nine, then waved the fight to a close.

It was the second defense for Castillo of the title he won from Juan Lazcano last year.

In another title fight on the card at the Mandalay Bay hotel-casino, former Olympian Jeff Lacy retained his IBF super-middleweight title by stopping Robin Williams in the seventh round.

Castillo, winning for the 52nd time in his pro career, opened early over both of Diaz's eyes with apparent head butts, and Diaz's left eye was nearly swollen shut when the fight ended.

Sports briefs

Diaz (30-3) gave up his IBF lightweight title to challenge Castillo, but simply did not have enough power to keep him off of him.

Castillo (52-61) with 46 knockouts won ahead 88-83 in his three scorecards after the ninth round, but made sure that the judges wouldn't have a say in the fight when he put the challenger away in the 10th round.

Buser goes for record-tying fifth Iditarod title

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Fearless, fourth or just plain stubborn, four-time champion Martin Buser cheerfully started the 100-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on Saturday, a few days after the middle finger of his right hand was amputated above the second joint.

Buser, 46, who was injured in a table saw accident Tuesday, loaded up on painkillers, antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs. He wore bandages and a special splint on his mangled hand and stuffed it inside an oversized black mitten.

At the festive, ceremonial start of the 33rd Iditarod, he happily signed autographs — he's left-handed — and posed for photographs with fans on a crisp, sunny morning before setting off on a journey to Nome that is perilous even for mushers in the best of health.

The first day was easy, starting out on trucked-in snow downstart, then taking a slow run for 11 miles with reduced loads of 12 dogs hauling "Iditariders" who paid for the thrill. The race really gets going Sunday with a restart from Willow, 70 miles north of the city. From there it's a danger-filled trail through steep gorges, along frozen rivers and over mountains with untold passes in sub-zero temperatures with howling winds.

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Giambi gets warm reception on the road

The Associated Press

Jason Giambi took his image rehabilitation tour on the road for the first time this spring and was given a warm reception. Carlos Beltran needed just one at-bat to hear how his new fans felt about him.

Giambi got his first hit of the year in the New York Yankees' 9-8 loss to the Detroit Tigers in Lakeland, Fla., on Saturday.

"I didn't know what to expect," Giambi said after going 1-for-4. "You never know, and that way you never set yourself up to be let down."

Giambi repeated several times that he was "humbled" by the reception he's been given following a year of accusations about steroid use.

Giambi, however, wasn't involved in the play that will find its way into the history of the most violent shows.

Detroit's Dmitri Young violently collided with Yankees catcher John Flaherty on a play at the plate, and Young needed five stitches on his ear. Young said the blood was worth it because the aggressive play was meant to convey how the Detroit Tigers intend to play this season.

"We're the Tigers — not the kitties," Young said.

At Port St. Lucie, Fla., Beltran hit a two-run homer in the first inning of his first home game with the Mets. Beltran also singled in three at-bats and helped New

Spring training

York beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 6-4.

"When you go out, you don't want to let the fans down," said Beltran, who signed a seven-year, \$119 million contract in January.

"You want to make them proud of your team. That's what we did today."

Free-agent signee J.D. Drew had his first hit for Los Angeles, a two-run homer off Mets starter Steve Trachsel in the third inning.

Sammy Sosa, who hit his first homer with the Baltimore Orioles on Friday, did something even more memorable Saturday: He was ejected while playing the outfield during the second inning of the Orioles' 9-6 loss to the Nationals at Fort Lauderdale, Fla. — the first time in 34 years that Baltimore and Washington met on a baseball diamond.

The sequence of events that led to Sosa's ejection by second base umpire C.B. Buckner began in the bottom of the first inning when he was called out by home plate umpire Joe West on a high third strike. Sosa briefly expressed his displeasure with the call before taking his place in right field.

After Baltimore starter Daniel Cabrera opened the second inning by going to a 2-0 count on leadoff hitter Brad Wilkerson, Sosa was ejected.

"I said, 'That was a strike,'" Sosa said, "and then the second-base umpire was like, 'Knock it off.' I said something back to him, and that was everything. I was all the way in right field, but I guess he took it the wrong way and threw me out of the game."

Sosa's ejection was not the only outrageous occurrence Saturday.

At Surprise, Ariz., Kansas City's Calvin Pickering hit a grand slam in the sixth inning but was called out when he passed baserunner Justin Huber at first base. Pickering was credited with a three-run, 385-foot single to left.

"That was the batter's fault," Royals manager Tony Pena said.

"We want our runners to tag up in that situation and we want the batter to be watching the runner. It's good these things happen down here."



Seattle Mariners 3B Adrian Beltre throws to first on a grounder by San Diego Padres' Ryan Klesko during the second inning Saturday in Peoria, Ariz. Klesko was out on the play. The Padres won 5-2.

Selig: Positive steroid tests dropped dramatically

BY BOB BAUM

The Associated Press

MESA, Ariz. — The number of positive tests for steroids in Major League Baseball dropped to between 1 to 2 percent last season, Commissioner Bud Selig said Saturday, and he predicted the virtual elimination of the drug from the sport this year.

The new figures, based on just under 1,200 tests, compare with 5 to 7 percent positive results in 2003, the first season that major

league players were tested.

Selig said the test results "startled me and a lot of other people."

"I am very confident that we will effectively rid our sport of steroids in this coming season," he said at a news conference.

The tests in 2003-04 were done under the 2002 collective bargaining agreement adhering to a program far less stringent than the one adopted by Major League Baseball and the players' union this year. The new pro-

gram implemented this week includes an unannounced test of every player, other random testing and tests in the offseason.

"I'm comfortable in telling you that we've not only dealt with our problem, but we will finish what we started," Selig said. "There always will be some exceptions, but I'm very comfortable with what we've done."

Selig also said the minor league testing program has dropped from 11 percent of tests being positive in 2001 to 1.7 percent last season.



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Eastern Kentucky's Zach Ingles (3) is pressured by Austin Peay's Maurice Hampton, left, and Derek Wright during the OVC title game.

Colonels march into CAA

Eastern Kentucky ends 26-year tournament drought; Winthrop, Central Florida, Chattanooga earn berths

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Travis Ford has played in a handful of NCAA tournaments, but even a Final Four. Yet coaching his own team to an NCAA appearance easily beats anything he accomplished on the court as a star guard at Kentucky.

"This will be something that you remember for a lifetime," said Ford, who will be making his NCAA tournament debut as a coach.

Zach Ingles scored 15 points and Eastern Kentucky earned its first NCAA tournament berth since 1979 by holding off Austin Peay 52-46 Saturday in the Ohio

Conference tournaments

Valley Conference championship game. The Colonels set a school record for victories by winning their seventh straight and improving to 22-8 overall. This will be Eastern Kentucky's sixth NCAA tournament berth overall.

"This is my greatest sports achievement to this date. I'm so happy for these guys that they get to experience it," Ford said.

Big South

Winthrop 68, Charleston Southern 46: Craig Bradshaw had 16 points and Torrell Martin had 13 points and nine rebounds,

helping Winthrop (27-5) return to the NCAA tournament after a two-year absence.

Atlantic Sun
Central Florida 63, Gardner-Webb 54: Gary Johnson scored 19 points to help Central Florida (24-8) clinch its second straight NCAA tournament appearance.

Southern
Chattanooga 66, UNC Greensboro 62: Charles Anderson led a balanced offense with 13 points and Mindaugas Katelnyas added 12 to help Chattanooga (20-10) win its first Southern Conference title since 1997 in its first season under coach Jeff Shulman.

Men's conference tournament scoreboard

America East

Friday, March 4
Md.-Baltimore Co. 78, New Hampshire 73
Stony Brook 66, Hartford 46
Saturday, March 5
Binghamton 76, Albany N.Y. 70
Vermont 76, Md.-Baltimore Co. 61
Northeastern 50, Stony Brook 78
Maine 47, Boston University 45
Sunday, March 6
Binghamton vs. Vermont
Northeastern vs. Maine
Thursday, March 12
Championship

Atlantic Sun

Thursday, March 3
Gardner-Webb 64, Troy 62
Central Florida 81, Mercer 68
Belmont 67, Georgia State 63
Jacksonville 68, Lincoln 64
Friday, March 4
Gardner-Webb 77, Jacksonville 76
Central Florida 66, Belmont 61
Saturday, March 5
Championship
Central Florida 63, Gardner-Webb 54

Atlantic 10

Wednesday, March 9
Richmond vs. Rhode Island
Massachusetts vs. La Salle
Fordham vs. Duquesne
Dayton vs. Colgate
Thursday, March 10
Saint Joseph's vs. Richmond/Rhode Island
Xavier vs. Massachusetts/La Salle
Ge. Washington vs. Fordham/Duquesne
Temple vs. Dayton/C. Bonaventure
Friday, March 11
Semifinals
Thursday, March 12
Championship

Big East

Wednesday, March 9
West Virginia vs. Providence
Georgetown vs. Seton Hall
Notre Dame vs. Rutgers
Thursday, March 10
Boston College vs. W. Virginia/Providence
Villanova vs. Pittsburgh
Connecticut vs. Georgetown/Seton Hall
Syracuse vs. Notre Dame/Rutgers
Friday, March 11
Semifinals
Thursday, March 12
Championship

Big Sky

Saturday, March 5
Montana 58, Eastern Washington 48
Weber State 74, Sacramento State 71
Sunday, March 6
Montana State vs. Montana State
Portland State vs. Weber St.
Wednesday, March 9
Championship

Big South

Tuesday, March 1
Charleston Southern 66, Liberty 60
High Point 68, N.C.-Asheville 81, OT
Winthrop 74, Coastal Carolina 62
Birmingham Southern 69, Radford 40
Thursday, March 3
Charleston Southern 58, High Point 55
Winthrop 78, Birmingham Southern 64
Saturday, March 5
Championship
Winthrop 68, Charleston Southern 46

Colonial Athletic

Friday, March 4
William & Mary vs. James Madison 54
Delaware 70 vs. James Madison 54
Saturday, March 5
Old Dominion 64, William & Mary 51
Hofstra 69, Drexel 77
Va. Commonwealth 74, Delaware 61
N.C.-Wilmington 69, George Mason 47
Sunday, March 6
Old Dominion vs. Hofstra
Va. Commonwealth vs. N.C.-Wilmington
Monday, March 7
Championship

Conference USA

Wednesday, March 9
Texas Christian vs. Marquette
DePaul vs. Tulane
Memphis vs. Saint Louis
Houston vs. South Florida
Thursday, March 10
Louisville vs. TCU/Marquette
Alabama-Birmingham vs. DePaul/Tulane
Charlotte vs. Memphis/Saint Louis
Cincinnati vs. Houston/South Florida
Friday, March 11
Semifinals
Thursday, March 12
Championship

Horizon League

Tuesday, March 1
Wright State 61, Butler 57
Loyola of Chicago 70, Youngstown State 75
Illinois-Chicago 84, Cleveland State 65
Wednesday, March 2
Detroit 61, Wright State 48
Loyola of Chicago 87, Illinois-Chicago 81
Detroit 61, Wisconsin-Green Bay 55
Wisc.-Milwaukee 54, Loyola of Chicago 76
Thursday, March 3
Championship
Detroit vs. Wisc.-Milwaukee

Metro Atlantic

Friday, March 4
Iona 68, Siena 51
Canisius 62, Marist 60
Marquette 68, Loyola, Md. 67
St. John 97, St. Peter's 72
Iona 78, Canisius 59

Fairfield 62, Manhattan 60
Saturday, March 5
Niagara vs. Iona
Rider vs. Fairfield
Monday, March 7
Championship

Mid-American

Monday, March 7
Marshall at Central Michigan at Kent State
Eastern Michigan at Akron
Northern Illinois at Buffalo
Ball State at Bowling Green
Thursday, March 10
Toledo vs. Illinois/Indiana
W. Michigan vs. E. Michigan/Akron
Ohio State vs. Ball State
Ohio/Marshall vs. Kent State/C. Michigan
Friday, March 11
Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
Championship

Mid-Continent

Saturday, March 5
Oral Roberts 82, Southern Utah 59
Oakland, Mich. 57, Mo.-Kansas City 63
Sunday, March 6
IUPUI-Indianapolis vs. W. Illinois
Valparaiso vs. Chicago State
Monday, March 7
Oral Roberts vs. IUPUI/W. Illinois
Oakland, Mich. vs. Valparaiso/Chicago St.
Tuesday, March 8
Championship

Mid-Eastern Athletic

Monday, March 7
Morgan State vs. Md.-Eastern Shore
Delaware A&M vs. Howard
Tuesday, March 8
Bethune-Cookman vs. N.C.-A&T
Wednesday, March 9
Delaware A&M vs. Howard-seeded winner
Hampton vs. middle-seeded winner
Thursday, March 10
South Carolina State vs. Norfolk State
Coppin State vs. middle-seeded winner
Friday, March 11
Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
Championship

Missouri Valley

Friday, March 4
Indiana State 63, Bradley 61
Drake 82, Evansville 68
Saturday, March 5
Southern Illinois 64, Indiana State 49
Southwest Missouri 70, Northern Iowa 62
Wichita State 72, Drake 52
Sunday, March 6
Southern Illinois 65, SW Missouri 51
Wichita State vs. Creighton
Monday, March 7
Championship

Mountain West

Thursday, March 10
Utah vs. Colorado State
UNLV vs. Wyoming
New Mexico vs. Brigham Young
Air Force vs. San Diego State
Friday, March 11
Utah/Colorado State vs. UNLV/Wyoming
New Mexico/BYU vs. Air Force/San Diego State
Saturday, March 12
Championship

Northeast

Thursday, March 3
Monmouth, N.J. 54, C. Connecticut 53
Fairleigh Dickinson 78, Francis, N.Y. 60
Wagner 69, Robert Morris 68
Long Island U. 75, St. Francis, Pa. 67
Saturday, March 5
Wagner at Monmouth, N.J.
LIU at Fairleigh Dickinson
Wednesday, March 9
Championship

Ohio Valley

Tuesday, March 1
Tennessee Tech 72, Eastern Illinois 68
Indiana 71, San Diego State 68
Eastern Kentucky 74, Tennessee State 68
Southeast Missouri 63, Murray State 58
Friday, March 4
Austin Peay 67, Tennessee Tech 61
Eastern Kentucky 75, Southeast Missouri 52
Saturday, March 5
Championship
Eastern Kentucky 52, Austin Peay 46

Patriot

Friday, March 4
Lehigh 77, Holy Cross 76, Army 42
American at Bucknell
Bucknell 70, Lafayette 54
Saturday, March 5
Lehigh at Holy Cross
American at Bucknell
Friday, March 11
Championship

Southeastern

Friday, March 4
South Carolina State vs. Mississippi State
Arkansas State vs. Georgia
Arkansas vs. Tennessee
Vanderbilt vs. Auburn
Saturday, March 5
Alabama vs. South Carolina/Mississippi
Florida vs. Mississippi State/Georgia
Kentucky vs. Arkansas/Tennessee
LSU vs. Vanderbilt/Auburn
Sunday, March 13
Championship

Southern

Wednesday, March 2
Eion 64, Winthrop 58
Georgia Southern 68, Western Carolina 57

East Tennessee State 87, Furman 84
Appalachian State 68, The Citadel 59
Thursday, March 3
Davidson 67, Elon 53
N.C.-Greensboro 74, Georgia Southern 71
Chattanooga 77, East Tennessee State 70
Appalachian State 63, Charleston 68
Friday, March 4
N.C.-Greensboro State vs. UNC-Wilmington
Chattanooga 57, Appalachian State 51
Saturday, March 5
Championship
Chattanooga 66, N.C.-Greensboro 62

Southland

Tuesday, March 8
Texas-Arlington at Northwestern (La.) St.
Texas State at Northwestern Louisiana
McKeesee State at Sam Houston State
Lamar at Texas-San Antonio
Thursday, March 10
Semifinals
Friday, March 11
Championship

Sun Belt

Friday, March 4
Fla. International 61, South Carolina 57
Arkansas State 68, North Texas 76
Middle Tennessee 77, New Mexico State 63
Saturday, March 5
Fla. International 69, Ark.-Little Rock 64
Denver 64, Arkansas State 57
Sunday, March 6
Middle Tennessee 77, New Orleans 66
Kentucky 69, New Orleans
Denver vs. W. Kentucky/New Orleans
Fla. Int'l vs. La-Lafayette/Middle Tenn.
Monday, March 7
Championship

West Coast

Friday, March 4
Pepperdine 69, UCLA 60, Marquette 79
San Diego 68, Portland 60
Saturday, March 5
San Francisco 65, Fresno State 60
Santa Clara 61, San Jose State 59
Saint Mary's, Calif. vs. Santa Clara
Sunday, March 7
Championship

Western Athletic

Tuesday, March 8
Hawaii vs. San Jose State
Boise State vs. Tulsa
Wednesday, March 9
Idaho vs. Pacific
Rice vs. Southern Methodist
Creighton 68, Illinois State 52
Nevada vs. Boise State/Tulsa
Friday, March 11
Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
Championship

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Stanford's Matt Haryasz (52) scores over Washington's Nate Robinson during the second half of Saturday's game, which Stanford won 77-67.

Huskies' hopes dashed

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

STANFORD, Calif. — Matt Haryasz had a career-high 24 points and 10 rebounds and inspired Stanford shocked No. 10 Washington 77-67 on Saturday, dashing the Huskies' bid for at least a share of their first Pac-10 title in two decades.

"We blew our chance. That was it," said guard Nate Robinson, frustrated with his 4-for-16, 11-point performance. "I'm just speechless right now. I don't know what to say. We couldn't get it done."

Arizona's late-second, 70-68 victory over Arizona State gave the Wildcats the title outright, one game ahead of the Huskies (24-5, 14-4 Pac-10), who haven't won a league title since tying USC in 1985.

Strangely enough, it was Washington that kept Stanford from an undefeated regular-season last year by ending the Cardinal's 26-game winning streak with a 77-66 victory in Seattle during the final Pac-10 weekend.

"That hurt," Haryasz recalled of last season's meeting.

Brandon Roy had 16 points and eight rebounds, but the cold-shooting Huskies never found a rhythm until two days after making a school-record 16 three-pointers in a 106-73 victory at California.

Washington lost 12 straight games at Maples Pavilion, where a sellout crowd of 7,233 made

Arizona wins Pac-10

The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Salim Stoudamire hit a double-pump 14-footer with six-tenths of a second to play to give Arizona a 70-68 victory over Arizona State, giving the Wildcats the outright Pac-10 regular-season title.

Arizona coach Lute Olson earned his 35th conference victory to break the Pac-10 record of 304 held by UCLA's John Wooden.

The Wildcats (25-5, 15-3) won their 11th conference title and ninth outright.

The Sun Devils (18-12, 7-11) rallied from 18 down in the first half to pull within one at the break, and from 15 in the second half to take the lead.

things hard for the Huskies all day.

Hundreds of students dressed in red ran onto the floor to celebrate when the final buzzer sounded.

The Huskies had won four straight and eight of nine, and their frustration was evident when Roy hammered Fred Washington into the basket with 26.6 seconds left for an intentional foul.

"If you're standing around like we were, it's hard to get ball movement," Washington coach Lorenzo Romar said. "That was maybe the biggest culprit."

Connecticut routs Syracuse in Big East showdown

The Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — Denham Brown scored 21 points and No. 15 Connecticut beat No. 13 Syracuse 88-70 on Saturday to earn a share of the Big East regular season championship, the Huskies' record ninth conference title.

Connecticut (21-6, 13-3) ended up sharing the title with Boston College after the No. 5 Eagles beat Rutgers 78-66 on Saturday night. With the victory, Boston College secured the No. 1 seed in next week's Big East tournament.

The Huskies used some impressive second-half defense to beat the Orange (24-6, 11-5) and win for the ninth time in 10 games. The only loss in that stretch was a nonconference game against North Carolina.

Hakim Warrick had 25 points for Syracuse, the third seed in the Big East tournament, but he was 0-for-6 from the field in the second half, scoring all his points on a 10-for-16 effort from the free throw line.

Gerry McNamara added 12 points for the Orange, but he was 2-for-10 from 3-point range and Syracuse finished 2-for-22 from beyond the arc.

No. 5 Boston College 78, Rutgers 66: Boston College clinched the Big East regular-season title and earned the No. 1 seed in next week's tournament behind a



Men's Top 25 Roundup

21-point, 11-rebound performance by Jared Dudley.

Boston College (24-3, 13-3) finished tied with Connecticut for the best record, but it won the tie-breaker, having beaten the Huskies 75-70 in January.

Texas 74, No. 8 Oklahoma State 73: Brad Buckman tied a career high with 27 points, and Texas put an impressive victory on its NCAA tournament resume.

The loss ended the Oklahoma State's homecourt winning streak — the longest in the nation — at 29 games. Kenny Taylor added 11 for Texas (20-9, 9-7 Big 12).

Joey Graham scored 17 to lead Oklahoma State (20-6, 11-5), and James On Curry added 16.

No. 9 Louisville 66, DePaul 62: The Cardinals clinched the Conference USA title behind Larry O'Bannon's 24 points.

Louisville (26-4, 14-2), which had already clinched the top seed in the conference tournament, won for the 15th time in 16 games and finished 9-1 on the road.

No. 14 Michigan State 90, Penn State 64: Alan Anderson scored 22 points and Chris Hill added 21 for the Spartans.

Kelvin Torbert and Maurice

Ager each added 11 points for Michigan State (22-5, 13-3 Big Ten).

Ben Luber and Mike Walker each scored 12 for Penn State (22-2, 15-5).

No. 16 Utah 72, San Diego State 60: Andrew Bogut recorded his 20th double-double of the season with 20 points and 15 rebounds in what was likely his final college home game. Although he's just a sophomore, Utah honored the 7-foot Australian before the season finale, a tradition usually reserved for seniors.

Bogut opened the game for the Utes (25-4, 13-1 Mountain West) with a two-handed dunk and all but ended it late in the second half with a 3-pointer to help Utah complete a 16-0 season at home.

No. 17 Pacific 64, UC Riverside 48: Guillaume Yango had 12 points and 14 rebounds to help Pacific complete a perfect season in the Big West Conference.

Mike Webb added 10 points for Pacific (25-2, 18-0), which tied a school record by winning its 21st straight game.

South Florida 85, No. 18 Charlotte 73: Terrence Leather scored 24 points and Brian Swift added 19 to lead South Florida to one of the biggest wins in school history.

The loss was the second straight for Charlotte (21-6, 12-3),

which performed much of the night like a team that had little to play for after Louisville clinched the Conference USA regular-season title by beating DePaul earlier in the day.

No. 19 Villanova 70, St. John's 68: Allan Ray scored 22 points and Villanova jumped out to a big lead early in the second half before holding off stubborn St. John's.

Will Sheridan added 19 points and 12 rebounds for the Wildcats (21-6, 11-5 Big East), who have won seven straight and appear headed for their first NCAA tournament berth since 1999.

No. 20 Oklahoma 74, Texas Tech 54: Kevin Bookout scored 15 points to lead Oklahoma, which handed Bob Knight his worst home loss at Texas Tech.

Oklahoma (23-6, 12-4 Big 12) came out hot in the second half, scoring on five of its first six possessions to put together a 12-0 run and go up 42-29.

No. 21 Alabama 68, Mississippi State 63: Kennedy Winston had 21 points as Alabama clinched the SEC West title.

Ronald Steele gave Alabama the lead for good when his three-pointer with 2:20 left began a 9-0 run. It helped wrap up the Ole Miss season after the SEC division crown since 2002 and an opening-round bye in next week's SEC tournament.

Stanford (17-11, 11-7) took a major step forward after an embarrassing 59-48 loss to Washington State on Thursday. The Cardinal, who have reached the NCAA tournament's second round each of the past 10 seasons, did a lot to boost their postseason chances.

"We were embarrassed two nights ago, and we didn't want any part of that feeling again," Stanford coach Trent Johnson said.

Haryasz practically did it all on the day Stanford held a pregame ceremony to honor seniors Rob Little and Nick Robinson, who played crucial roles in last year's 30-2 season.

In the first half, the 6-foot-11 Haryasz dribbled the ball up-court against Washington's full-court press, then swished a baseline jump motion later.

"I was really inspired," Haryasz said. "I was pretty bummed about the Washington State game."

Jason Haas scored a career-high 18 points and Chris Hernandez and Robinson each added 12 as Stanford kept the Huskies from matching the school victory record set by the 1953 team that achieved the school's only Final Four appearance.

Washington coach Lonzo Marple since a 68-67 victory Jan. 30, 1993, and hasn't swept its annual Bay Area trip since the '84-85 season.

"We learn from our mistakes," Nate Robinson said. "And we've got to learn from this game."

No. 22 Cincinnati 62, Memphis 60: James White hit an 8-foot baseline jumper with 16.2 seconds remaining for Cincinnati, 12-4 Conference USA, who extended their winning streak to six games. White finished with 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Armen Kirkland scored 16 points to lead the Bearcats (24-6, 12-4 Conference USA), who extended their winning streak to six games. White finished with 11 points and 11 rebounds.

No. 23 Wisconsin 64, Purdue 52: Wisconsin spoiled the last regular-season stop on Gene Keady's frustrating farewell season, ensuring the first 20-loss season for Purdue in the Boilermakers' 107-year history.

Mike Wilkinson and Alando Tucker each scored 14 points — Tucker's all came in the first half — and Kamron Taylor added 11 for the Badgers (20-7, 11-5 Big Ten).

No. 24 Pittsburgh 85, Notre Dame 77: Chris Taft had a career-high 25 points and Pittsburgh (20-7, 10-6) posted its fourth straight 20-win season.

The Irish (17-9, 9-7) lost for the third time in four games.

Torin Francis had 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Irish.

No. 25 Nevada 73, San Jose State 69: Nick Fazekas had 28 points and eight rebounds, and Nevada's 16-2 victory (Atlantic Conference) rallied from a big early deficit for its 10th straight victory.

Davis Cup doubles loss leaves U.S. only a singles chance

BY KEN PETERS
The Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — In jeopardy of being eliminated by Croatia in the opening round of the Davis Cup for the second time in three years, the Americans turned to Andy Roddick and Andre Agassi.

Twins Mike and Bob Bryan lost a doubles match for the first time in Davis Cup play Saturday, and Croatia took the lead against the heavily favored United States.

Ivan Ljubicic and Mario Ancic beat the Bryans 3-6, 7-6 (8), 6-4, 6-4 for Croatia's second win in three matches in the best-of-five competition.

Roddick will play Ljubicic in Sunday's first match, and Agassi will face Ancic in the fifth and final match — if the Croatians haven't clinched by then.

U.S. captain Patrick McEnroe is glad he's able to send out Roddick and Agassi, who are playing Davis Cup for the first time in five years.

"If there are two guys you want to roll out down 2-1, we've got the two guys we want," McEnroe said. "So I'm extremely confident that they're both going to play well."

"Andre's been in this position before, and Andy's been in a position where he's had to win a match. This is our best team, our best one-two punch."

The Bryans were 5-0 and hadn't lost a set in Davis Cup play against Ljubicic and Ancic, bronze medalists in the 2004 Olympics and playing Davis Cup doubles together for just the second time.

"It hurts. It doesn't feel good to let your team down," Mike Bryan said. "It was a long, hard day. At least we kept them out there for two hours and 40 minutes."

The Americans hope that playing both singles and doubles has taken a toll on Ljubicic, 25, and Ancic, 20. Ljubicic defeated Agassi in straight sets Friday, and Roddick downed Ancic 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-4.



Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic, right, high fives his doubles teammate Mario Ancic after they defeated United States' Bob and Mike Bryan, 3-6, 7-6 (10-8), 6-4, 6-4, during Saturday's first-round Davis Cup match.

Croatia ousted the United States in the opening round of the 2003 Cup play, the only previous meeting between the two countries.

Ljubicic won both his singles matches and teamed for a doubles victory in that competition in Zagreb. "To win five in a row is amazing," Ljubicic said of his perfect Davis Cup mark against America. "But it's still a long way. We need to win three sets, one of us, and it's not easy."

It's still Roddick and Agassi on the other side of the net, so we need to be careful."

McEnroe said there's more pressure on Croatia, "pressure on them to close this out."

Croatia captain Nikola Pilic didn't agree.

"I would say that they have to win two matches and we only have to win one," he said.

The Americans, 5-32 in previous rounds when trailing 2-1, haven't won the Davis Cup since

1995. That's the longest drought in 68 years for the United States, beaten by Spain in last year's finals.

Ljubicic, a singles finalist in four tour events already this year, made the difference in the doubles victory. Along with his booming serves, often in the high 130-mph range, he slashed shots down the lines and showed a deft touch at the net.

After winning the first set, the Bryans seemed to be back on their heels much of the rest of the match against the two talented singles players.

Ljubicic served 13 aces — including three in a row for a 5-3 lead in the fourth set — and Ancic had eight. The Bryans combined had eight.

Agassi, who turns 35 next month, decided to return to try to help the Americans end their winless spell and capture their 32nd Davis Cup.

Ljubicic's 6-3, 7-6 (10), 6-3 win over him was only Agassi's sixth loss in 36 Davis Cup matches.

Charge by Woods sets up Doral duel

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Phil Mickelson heard the roars of a dynamic charge ahead of him. Every time he glanced at the leaderboard, he noticed Tiger Woods taking another shot off his lead until it was down to two Saturday in the Ford Championship at Doral.

Lefty was loving it.

"I had a different feeling today," Mickelson said after his 6-under 66. "I wanted him to play well. I

want to go head-to-head with him. I've been looking forward to the chance to play head-to-head against him. If I'm able to turn things around from the past and come out on top, it will make for a very special week."

Doral could not have asked for a better duel.

Mickelson continued to bully the Blue Monster with a variety of wedge shots from thick rough that gave him birdie chances, and left him at 20-under 196 and in the lead for the 10th consecutive round in stroke play.

Woods energized the monstrous gallery with his power, driving the green on the 347-yard 16th hole and making good on a birthday pledge to his father to shoot a low round. His 8-dot birdie on the final hole gave him a 9-under 63, the low score of the tournament, and put him two shots behind.

"We're going to have a bunch of fun tomorrow," Woods said. "It's going to be competitive, and I think we're both going to be focused on making a bunch of birdies."

The gallery might not realize this, but there were other players with an outside chance at Doral. Zach Johnson, who had to pull out of the pro-am with a bad back, shot a 64 and was six shots behind at 14 under, along with James Duvall (67) and defending champion Craig Parry (67).

Vijay Singh couldn't keep pace with a 68 and was seven shots behind, joined by two-time Masters champion Jose Maria Olazabal (70) and former U.S. Open champion Jim Furyk (67).

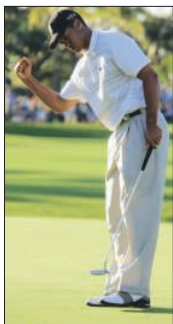
But all that mattered to anyone were two of the biggest names in golf — Phil and Tiger.

They last played in the final group at the 2003 Buick Invitational, after Lefty had made his infamous "inferior equipment" comment. Woods went on to win by four, with Mickelson six shots behind.

Mickelson repeatedly said his record was not so stellar against Woods, although he usually is having to make up ground. He is one of three players on the PGA Tour to beat him from behind, at the 2000 Tour Championship.

While it looks like a two-man race on Sunday, Mickelson cautioned not to forget about the rest of the field.

"We want to make sure that we don't let them back in the tournament," he said.



Tiger Woods watches as his ball rolls into the hole on the 18th green on Saturday at Doral, ending his charge that moved him within two shots of the lead.

Eagle gives Els Dubai title

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Ernie Els eagled the final hole Sunday to win the Dubai Desert Classic for the third time with a one-stroke victory over Miguel Angel Jimenez, who had led for most of the tournament.

Els, who shot a 4-under-par 68 and finished at 19-under 269, captured his first title of 2005. He also won in Dubai in 1994 and 2002.

Jimenez, a five-time winner on the European tour in 2004, reached the green in two on the par-5 18th but settled for par. The Spaniard missed a birdie putt from 10 feet and shared second place with Stephen Dodd of Wales, who finished with a 66 for a 270.

Colin Montgomerie of Scotland shot a 69 and followed at 272.

Kerr leads MasterCard by two

HUDDQUILUCAN, Mexico — Cristie Kerr shot a 4-under 68 to take a two-stroke lead over Moira Dunn and South Korea's Sae-Hee Son into the final round of the MasterCard Classic, the first LPGA Tour event in Mexico since 1975.

Annika Sorenstam, playing her first event of the year, was three strokes behind after a 71, while Mexico's Lorena Ochoa shot a 75 to fall eight back at 2 over.

Kerr, second to Jennifer Rosales last week in the SBS Open in Hawaii, had six birdies — four on the back nine — and two bogeys to reach 6 under on the Bosque Real Country Club course. Dunn shot a 72, and Son had her second straight 70.

Sorenstam, an eight-time winner last year on the LPGA Tour, was 3 under through 14 holes, but dropped two strokes with a double bogey on No. 15.

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SPORTS

Ohio State stuns Illinois

Sylvester's three-pointer caps career-high effort, hands No. 1 Illini first loss

BY RUSTY MILLER
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Illinois is perfect no more.

Ohio State reserve forward Matt Sylvester hit a three-pointer with 5.1 seconds left on Sunday to hand the top-ranked Illini their first loss, 65-64.

The Illini (29-1, 15-1) were trying to cap the Big Ten's first unbeaten season in 29 years. Instead, they frittered away a 12-point lead in the second half and didn't score in the final three minutes.

Sylvester scored a career-high 25 points — eight more than his previous best — for a team that was banned by its own administrators from the postseason two months ago for alleged NCAA violations.

Ohio State (19-12, 8-8), a team with problems all year hanging onto the ball, didn't have a turnover in the second half. The Illini, who had hurdled tough games in loud environments all season, had seven turnovers after halftime.

It was the second straight season a team coached by Thad Matta ended a run at perfection. Matta's Xavier team handed Saint Joseph's its first loss last season in the Atlantic 10 tournament.

The last team to reach the NCAA tournament without a loss was UNLV in 1991.

The Illini led 64-58 after James Augustine's layup with 3:23 left — but didn't score again.

The Buckeyes ran off the next seven points, with Terence Dials, who had 21 points, scoring on a half-hook before Sylvester drove the lane for a left-handed scoop to cut the lead to 64-62 with 1:40 remaining.

With just more than a minute left, Illinois' Deron Williams drove the lane and wrapped a pass around a defender to Roger Powell, but Dials swatted the shot away to teammate Je'Kel Foster. Sylvester missed a 15-footer for the Buckeyes and then Illinois' Luther Head misfired on a three-pointer with 17 seconds left.

Ohio State called a timeout with 12 seconds left. Foster rebounded to Brandon Fuss-Cheatham who passed to Sylvester on the right wing, in front of the Ohio State bench. His quick shot seemed to surprise the Illini, nestling in the net while a capacity crowd at Value City Arena roared.

After a timeout, a pass was tipped out of bounds in front of the Illinois bench. The Illini had one last chance with 2.2 seconds left. Williams passed to Powell, but his hurried three-pointer from the top of the circle was well short and off the mark.

Fans rushed the court after the buzzer sounded, snapping photos, jumping up and down and slapping the Buckeyes on the back.

Dee Brown led the Illini with 13 points, although he was rattled all day by chants of "air ball" after several errant second-half shots. He was 3-of-11 from the field and had only five points over the final 34 minutes. Powell and Head each added 12 points.

Williams, who came in averaging 12.8 points a game, was 1-for-7 from the field and finished with two points.

Foster added 10 points for Ohio State, which enters this week's Big Ten tournament as the No. 6 seed.

The Illini were 9-for-27 (33 percent) from the field in the second half.



Ohio State's Matt Sylvester drives for two of his 25 points as Illinois' James Augustine looks on during. Sylvester hit a game-winning three-pointer to hand the top-ranked Illini their first loss of the season.



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